

Trade Centre defendants get 240 years each in prison

NEW YORK (AP) — Three persons convicted in the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Centre were sentenced Tuesday to 240 years in prison. The judge called one a coward for planting a bomb "to kill innocents." The Feb. 26, 1993, bombing killed six people and injured more than 1,000 in the 110-story twin towers, the world's second-tallest buildings. Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad and Mahmoud Abu Halim were sentenced first. A fourth defendant, Ahmad Ajaj, was to be sentenced later. U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy sentenced them after hearing a statement from the husband of a pregnant clerical worker killed in the explosion. "I'll never get a chance to see him grow up," Ed Smith said of the boy his 34-year-old wife, Monica, was carrying. "We all lost this because of four men who wanted to blow up landmarks in New York." Mr. Salameh, 26, a Palestinian immigrant, was convicted March 4 on charges of conspiracy, explosives charges and assault. In a half-hour speech in Arabic, which was translated via an interpreter, he proclaimed his innocence and accused the U.S. government of covering up the real story of the bombing. "I wonder how long I will remain in prison until the government reveals I was innocent?"

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Israeli planes bomb S. Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes bombed Shiite Muslim guerrilla bases Tuesday in apparent retaliation for rocket attacks on an Israeli-occupied area in South Lebanon. The hostilities heightened tensions following the weekend abduction by Israeli commandos of Mustafa Dirani, a Shiite guerrilla leader, from his house in east Lebanon's Bekka valley. Shiite militants have vowed to avenge the kidnapping. Security sources in South Lebanon said Israeli fighter-bombers were scrambled five times within 30 minutes against Hizbollah's key hideout of Iqlim Al Tufah, or Apple Province, beginning at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT). Smoke from burning pine trees shrouded the region as warplanes repeatedly pounced from clear skies to hit and streak away. All released scarlet red balloons that deflected heat-seeking surface-to-air Strella missiles fired by guerrillas. No hits were observed. The Israeli commando said its planes returned safely to base from bombing missions against a Hizbollah training base and launching pad for attacks by the organisation. Hizbollah and hospitals in the region said there were no civilian or guerrilla casualties from the air strikes.

U.N. disarmament meeting opens in Hiroshima

TOKYO (AFP) — China and North Korea were notably absent from the annual conference on disarmament which opened in Hiroshima, western Japan, Tuesday. The four-day United Nations sponsored conference is to discuss nuclear non-proliferation and a ban on nuclear testing at a time when North Korea is suspected of pursuing a nuclear weapons programme in parallel with its civilian undertaking. At the plenary session, Yohel Kono, leader of Japan's opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), called for a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests by August next year, the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city. Experts and officials from 19 countries are attending and are expected to discuss transparency in armaments and closer regional dialogue.

Muslim Brotherhood say Egypt government cracks down

CAIRO (R) — A leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood, for decades Egypt's only tolerated platform for Islamist opposition, said on Tuesday the government was cracking down on the group. Ahmad Seif Al Islam Al Banna said supporters were arrested for distributing leaflets in Cairo mosques over the Muslim feast of Eid Al Adha on Saturday, and a prominent sheikh was prevented from delivering his sermon to thousands of worshippers. "It is clear the government is taking tougher procedures now against the Muslim Brotherhood," he said. Until now the government has focused on tackling a two year campaign of violence by the militant Gama'a Islamiya (Islamic Group), in which nearly 400 people — mainly police and militants — have been killed. The Brotherhood, Egypt's oldest Islamist group, seeks to establish a purist Islamic state in Egypt through peaceful means, unlike the Gama'a which advocates violence. President Hosni Mubarak and Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi both indicated in recent interviews they might toughen their line against the Brotherhood, which is officially banned but in practice has been tolerated as a platform for religious activists since the early 1970s. Mr. Alfi said the leading role of Brotherhood supporters in a demonstration last week by lawyers "confirms their links with terrorists and terrorism." He said the demonstration, organised to protest the death in police custody of an Islamist lawyer, represented a "new wave of terrorism against the police."

Crown Prince: Worst appears to be over, but much remains to be done in search for peace

Jordan will not sign peace treaty before resolving issues on agenda

All forms of anti-Semitism, extremism are rejected

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday that although making peace in the Middle East has been arduous and fraught with dangers, "we appear to be over the worst" in the search for a negotiated and comprehensive settlement. But the Crown Prince warned that much remains to be done if the Arab-Israeli conflict is to be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. "We are past the point when symbolic gestures, televised worldwide, carry currency," the Crown Prince said in a lecture he delivered at the London-based Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI), a professional body founded in 1831 and dedicated to the study, analysis and debate of issues affecting defence and international security. "We have arrived at the point when the substance of peace must be negotiated in detail; when the foundations of a new Middle Eastern order must be laid, block by block."

"In a world that is still seeking a new rationale and order for itself after the end of the cold war, the search for peace in the Middle East assumes great symbolic and practical importance. For if the peoples of my region can find the will and the courage to live together, then

discussed and settled to the satisfaction of all. We seek to strike a balance between the need to address the agenda items on the one hand and the need to implement interim agreements and arrangements to sustain the momentum of peace on the other."

After the lecture, Prince Hassan responded to questions related to Arab intelligentsia and the media, anti-Semitism, racial discrimination and extremism.

Voicing his rejection of all forms of anti-Semitism and extremism, the Prince called for solutions to humanitarian issues through agreements by the followers of the three monotheistic religions in a spirit of equality and co-existence.

Following is the full text of the lecture which was entitled "Making Peace in the Middle East."

It is an honour and a pleasure to address the Royal United Services Institute on the complex topic of "Making Peace in the Middle East."

Many of you are familiar with the study and logistics of warfare as well as the politics of making peace. I am in a position to assure you that the



latter is far more difficult to achieve. It is simple to wage war but it is not so easy to conclude a just and lasting peace. Our experience in the Middle East has shown that making peace is constantly fraught with hidden dangers. The search for peace in the region has been arduous and at times intractable. I am pleased to state that we appear to be over the worst.

I have come before you today to speak of Jordan's quest for peace. I will speak of peace in the Middle East, for that is

(Continued on page 3)

Princess Saleha, sister of King Abdullah, laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Saleha, daughter of the late King Hussein Bin Ali and sister of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, Tuesday was laid to rest at the Royal Cemetery.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, led the Royal Family and other mourners in the funeral procession for a service at the Royal Guard Mosque.

Draped in the Jordanian flag, the Princess' coffin was carried by army officers from the mosque to the cemetery. The burial ceremony accorded the late Princess, who was born in the Hijaz, full honours and a 15-gun salute.



The late Princess Saleha

Following the funeral ceremony the Regent, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, Prince Ghazi Bin Mobammad and Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid received condolences from mourners.

The prime minister, Cabinet members, Parliament members, heads of government departments, heads of diplomatic missions and high ranking army officers were among those to pay their respects to the Royal

Family.

The Royal Court Mooday evening announced the passing of Princess Saleha, at the age of 110.

Condolences by men will be accepted at R ghadan Palace, and by women at the residence of Sharifah Naf'a Bint Jamil, Second Circle, Jabal Amman, opposite the former prime ministry. Condolences will be accepted until Thursday evening.

Arafat cancels Israeli law in self-rule areas as Israel shuts border with Jericho

Hamas warns PLO not to give in to 'Zionist' pressure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat took a first step to asserting legal authority over the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip with an order cancelling laws enforced by Israel during 27 years of occupation.

An announcement by Mr. Arafat published in two Jerusalem-based Palestinian newspapers instructed civilian and religious courts in Gaza and Jericho to operate under the laws that existed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before Israel occupied the territories during the 1967 Middle East war.

It was Mr. Arafat's first assertion of legal authority over Gaza and Jericho, where Palestinian self-rule began this month under an Israeli-PLO peace accord signed in Washington last September.

"Laws, regulations and orders that were in effect before June 5, 1967, in the Palestinian areas West Bank and Gaza Strip shall remain in effect until they are unified," said the order signed by Mr. Arafat. It said the measure took effect from last Friday.

Israel said Arafat could not change the law without Israel's approval.

Meanwhile, Israel sealed the Jericho for 24 hours after PLO police disarmed three Jewish settlers in the city.

"This is to enable Palestinian police commanders in the city to complete their organisation and to explain to all police stationed in the city their authority as established by the (Israel-PLO) declaration of principles," the army said.

Israel and the PLO had agreed that "Israelis shall be permitted to bear licensed arms" in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian policeman confronted three armed Jewish settlers in a money-changer's office in Jericho on Tuesday, demanding they turn over their weapons.

The policeman cocked his weapon... I immediately pulled down the (policeman's)

weapon and told him not to cock it," one of the settlers, Arye Shahar, told Israel radio.

Shahar said he and the others handed over their guns, which were returned about an hour later after Palestinian police met with their Israeli counterparts in a security liaison committee.

Palestinian police officials confirmed the incident.

The army said the Jericho closure would be lifted at 1400 GMT on Wednesday but residents presently outside the city could enter and non-residents could leave.

A Palestinian policeman told Reuters there had been at least one previous incident since Palestinians took over security from Israelis last week in which the force demanded settlers hand over their guns.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, at the entry to Gaza, threatened on Tuesday to slam the door on future deals with the PLO unless it reaffirmed its commitment to peace with Israel.

Still angry at a speech by

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat earlier this month, Mr. Rabin told reporters at Nahal Oz checkpoint:

"We will insist that it be clear the continuation of the process beyond Gaza and Jericho will be tied to the Palestinians proving their ability to fulfil their commitments in Gaza and in Jericho and to a pointed reaffirmation of this commitment..." Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin, taking his first close look at Gaza since Israel handed the territory over to Palestinian rule last week, stood a few metres from a sign which identifies the area as Palestinian-ruled and informs Israelis they need special permission to enter.

Israeli officials, incensed by Mr. Arafat's May 10 speech at a South African mosque four days after signing the Gaza-Jericho accord in Cairo, originally demanded a written reaffirmation of his commitment to peace with Israel.

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Gazans mourn Asfour

From Mariam M. Shahin in Gaza

THOUSANDS OF bullets were fired into the air Tuesday as 18-year-old Jihad Asfour was laid to rest in the first funeral of a Palestinian killed by Israelis since a 3000-strong Palestinian police and security force took control of the Gaza Strip last week.

Killed by an Israeli army bullet in Hebron on Monday, Jihad Asfour is a native of the Khan Yunes refugee camp. His open coffin, draped in the red, green, white and black coloured Palestinian flag, was carried by relatives from a Red Crescent ambulance at the entrance of Gaza onto a Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) vehicle and guarded by over 30 members of the PNSF.

Up to 8,000 Palestinians from various parts of the Gaza Strip accompanied the convoy of PNSF vehicles from the entrance of Gaza to Khan Yunes in the southern part of the Gaza Strip.

Banners proclaiming the martyrdom of Mr. Asfour were evidently organised by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, as was much of the funeral ceremony.

Although head of all Gaza-based Palestinian Security Forces Major General Nasr Youssef has called on all Gazans who were not members of the official security apparatus to hand in their weapons. Mr. Asfour's funeral showed just how many guns were in Gaza.

A man wearing a black mask and shouting pro-Hamas slogans into a loudspeaker shot at least 20 rounds of ammunition into the air as uneasy policemen looked on.

Mr. Asfour's funeral was said to be the Gaza Strip's largest since the intifada began in December 1987.

The claim by both Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement that Mr. Asfour came from their ranks enabled them to turn his funeral into a large Islamic rally and a forum for

250 pilgrims killed in Mecca stampede

MECCA (AP) — As many as 250 people were trampled to death during a symbolic "stoning to devil" ritual of the annual pilgrims to Mecca, Islam's holiest city, security officials said Tuesday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officials said victims of Monday's crush included 182 Turks, the others were mostly Lebanese, Pakistanis and Indonesians.

But in Ankara, Mehmet Nuri Yilmaz, chairman of Turkey's Religious Affairs Department, said only five Turks died.

Lebanon's state television said nine Lebanese were among those trampled to death, and Tehran's evening newspaper Kayhan said six Iranians died.

Adding to the confusion was Kayhan's reports, which said the death toll from the stampede was 700. The report was attributed to "unofficial sources" in Mecca.

Saudi Arabia's official news media reported the crush without providing details.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency said 829 people have died in this year's Hajj, or pilgrimage, for a variety of reasons, including "old age, heart attacks (and) deaths that

resulted because of the heavy throngs throwing pebbles on Monday," it gave no breakdown.

In a 1990 stampede, 1,426 pilgrims died.

The security officials said Monday's crush occurred as the pilgrims surged through pedestrian paths toward a cavern for the pebble-throwing event, ambulances could not reach the scene for quick rescue.

Talat Sharif, a Pakistani pilgrim who said he was at the site, said a group of Indonesians were sitting on a flyover, apparently waiting for sun-down to cast their pebbles in an Indonesian tradition. Suddenly, "a wave of people, mostly tall, well-built Africans, trampled them to death," he said.

A Health Ministry official said in Jeddah that the crush was caused by worshippers piling to get nearer to the pillars.

"A wave of people, predominantly Asian, wanted to rush to the edge of the cavern because they think it's most sacred to actually hit the pillars with the pebbles," said Abbas Hamza Abbasi, the deputy director of the Health Ministry.

Scud attack on Sanaa kills 15

Beidh acknowledges north is advancing

SANAA (Agencies) — At least 15 people were killed and more than 80 were injured when a missile crashed into the capital Sanaa in the second such attack on the northern stronghold in Yemen's civil war, rescuers said Tuesday.

Three families were unaccounted for 12 hours after the Monday evening strike and it was not immediately clear if they had escaped it or were buried under rubble.

Rescuers used shovels and bare hands to claw through the wreckage of flattened houses in search of victims.

Sanaa Radio vowed revenge, saying the missile was fired by southern Yemenis whose capital, Aden, was hit by a missile — apparently fired by the north — a day earlier.

"The cowardly criminals will

not escape punishment and both the people and the armed forces will inflict just punishment on them," Sanaa Radio said.

Since fighting began, more than 28 Scud missiles have been fired against northern Yemeni targets. One hit a Sanaa residential area on May 11, killing 23 men, women and children.

The Defence Ministry in Aden, the newly declared capital of the breakaway state of south Yemen, denied having fired a missile and said the north was trying to divert attention from a missile attack on Aden on Sunday night which killed eight.

The south Yemeni President, Ali Salem Al Beidh, on Monday night warned that Sanaa's firing of missiles at

Aden could force the south to revoke its earlier decision to stop using Scud missiles.

He was speaking to reporters two hours after the attack on Sanaa of which he appeared to be unaware. He was in the eastern port of Mukalla from which communications are difficult.

Houses on all sides of a crater about eight metres long and three wide were flattened or badly damaged, and terrified residents ran out into the street from nearby homes screaming in their search for shelter.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh on May launched a military campaign to crush southern rivals led by Mr. Beidh after almost a year of disputes about the balance of power in the united Yemen they created in

May 1990.

Mr. Saleh's forces have been trying to advance on Aden and have succeeded in their eastward advance in capturing Ataq, the capital of the oil province of Shabwa. Reuter correspondent Jonathan Wright reported from Ataq on Monday that the city, its military base and airfield were under Sanaa's control.

Northern forces made a breakthrough in the oil-rich Shabwa region but will never reach the production fields, Mr. Al Beidh said.

Mr. Beidh said that oil production was continuing in the Massila field at more than 150,000 barrels a day.

"There is a breakthrough

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Upon the Occasion of
INDEPENDENCE DAY



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N. Yemen tribesmen collect spoils of war

ATAQ, Yemen (R) — Tribal militiamen with Kalashnikov rifles and pick-up trucks followed the northern Yemen army into the southeastern town of Ataq Monday to collect the spoils of war abandoned by southern secessionists just a day before.

Colonel Ali Al Gufali, commander of one of the advancing northern brigades, said more than 2,000 southern troops pulled out of Ataq Sunday afternoon after a nine-hour engagement in which the only casualty was one southern soldier killed.

More than 100 gave themselves up. "They didn't fight very seriously," he said.

The town of Ataq, the capital of Shabwa province and about 270 kilometres northeast of the old southern capital Aden, was firmly in government hands Monday with no signs of fighting or resistance.

The paved road west towards the town of Beyhan was busy with traffic, mostly pick-up trucks loaded high with furniture, mattresses, and household appliances looted from the Ataq base and other institutions previously controlled by the mostly southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

YSP leader Ali Salem Al Beidh declared a separate state in the south Saturday but the only territory he controlled is a small area around Aden and the eastern province of Hadramawt and Mahrah.

The main significance of the fall of Ataq is that the southerners can no longer use the airfield there for refuelling their planes.

At the airfield Monday, two ground combat planes stood in protected bays.

Colonel Gufali said the southerners had abandoned them. He said they also left behind 50 tanks and 300 to 400 artillery pieces.

Asked about the looting, which took place within sight of army officers, the colonel said: "The tribes came and looted while we were busy, now we've stopped them. But they were a great help to the army."

One of the looters said with a grin: "From the people to the people."

The centre of Ataq was full of soldiers and tribal militiamen, who came to town in their hundreds, dressed in sandals and coloured Yemeni skirts, and draped in bullet belts.

The militiamen said they were fervently nationalist southerners. Some were members of the militia of the General People's Congress, the party of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and of the tribal federation to which

Salah belonged.

They did not touch private homes or shops, which remained firmly bolted and padlocked.

Colonel Gufali said many civilians had fled because of the fighting or had gone to the countryside for the Muslim feast of Eid Al Adha.

Most houses on the road west of Beyhan were also deserted but it was not clear where the people had gone. Neither the southern authorities nor the United Nations have reported an influx of refugees into southern controlled areas.

The colonel said the southern army had opened the way to Mukalla, the second largest town under YSP control.

By capturing the base, the northern army had opened the way to Mukalla, the second largest town under YSP control.

"If we wanted to go to Mukalla, we could go there straight away," he said. "But we are waiting for our next orders."

Shabwa is one of Yemen's oil-producing regions but production there is insignificant at around 5,000 barrels a day.

Both sides in the conflict control much larger oil fields in areas so far unaffected by the fighting.



ISLAMIC JIHAD: Masked Palestinian militants of the Islamic Jihad, opposed to the peace process, use a land mine to claim responsibility in their killing of two Israeli soldiers at Erez Junction, north of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army sealed off the area until May 23, following the attack (AFP photo)

Lack of water is a major problem in Gaza, West Bank

By M. C. Jaspersen
USIA

WASHINGTON — Water is the issue looming in the Middle East's future, and two Israeli experts have briefed congressional staff members on the subject at the Capitol.

Israel is "trying here to open a window... and I think that in the Middle East, opens a lot of opportunities to Israel — to its role in the Middle East, and to the people who live there," said Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur.

The official was speaking under the auspices of the International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC), an independent, nonprofit organisation offering "hands-on expertise in arid and semiarid lands research," whose participants include the University of Arizona, University of Illinois, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&I University, the Jewish National Fund, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

The consortium, dedicated "to exploring the unique problems and solutions of arid and semiarid regions," concentrates on "the study and use" of such land and the "provision of expertise in areas such as water conservation and harvesting, development of stress-tolerant plants, agroforestry, range management, fire control, remote sensing, and drought mitigation."

Describing the region as arid and 90 per cent desert, Mr.

Tzur said that what is most distressing is that the desert is expanding, rather than contracting, with erosion overtaking "more and more of the green parts." He called it "essential" that the region take serious steps to halt desertification.

Elihu Rosenthal, expert adviser to the Israeli peace talks delegation on water issues, explained that when Israel occupied Gaza in 1967, water in the region was already being over-consumed by 2.3 times what the given water levels could sustain annually.

By 1993, that figure was down to 1.7 times the amount that should be pumped on a yearly basis, Mr. Rosenthal said.

While Gaza "do over-pump" he added, it is now "at a lower rate in order to stabilise the conditions."

Nevertheless the figures are still "worrisome," given the population increase from 600,000 inhabitants in Gaza in 1967, to 800,000 today. With the population doubling every 15 years, he cautioned, "it's actually a much worse" situation when it comes to meeting inhabitants' needs.

Mr. Rosenthal explained that the big issue in the Gaza region is the "over-exploitation" of desalinisation methods, which have led to an inflow of sea water, brine, and heavy agricultural and municipal pollution, all of which conspire to destroy water quality.

Now, he said, as Gaza begins self-rule, its hydrological system is totally separate from that of Israel's, and "solutions will have to be found (by the

Palestinians) on their own."

But Mr. Rosenthal noted that this is not the case in the West Bank, where, "if any of the two peoples sitting on this territory will over-exploit water... both parties will be damaged." The reason is that the undrinkable saline water — rather than fresh water — will eventually rise to the surface.

There is yet a greater problem throughout the Middle East, he noted: "We have here a basic problem of water rights... Who has the right to the water upstream? Downstream? Mr. Rosenthal asked.

"The bottom line," no matter where the shortages and the controls are, "is that over-exploitation of water in the Middle East will certainly harm... everyone."

He said that when considering the problem of water for future generations in the region, "we specialists all over the Middle East, whether Jordanians, Israelis, Egyptians or Palestinians, we still don't know the answers and (yet) must find them — to the salinisation questions, to the volume of fresh water above the salt."

"This has never been studied sufficiently," nor has there been adequate investment in the question of water. The situation constitutes "a major problem," requiring "a regional programme of cooperation for the study of salinity, accompanied by direct drilling... research... sharing of that (knowledge)" with an enhancement in "professionalism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin doubts Arafat's abilities

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin cast doubt Monday on Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's ability to administer the Palestinian autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

"He is not an easy partner. He has never had the responsibility of managing the daily lives of nearly 800,000 Palestinians in all areas: Health, education, public services," Mr. Rabin told a visiting delegation of French business leaders. "He has never been held accountable for his management. Up to now, it was he who gave money to people he chose himself." Mr. Rabin told the delegation led by Francois Perigot, chairman of the French Council of Industry (CNPF). "But donor countries like the United States, the European Union cannot afford to finance the PLO without Yasser Arafat being obliged to explain how the money is being used and unfortunately he has not realised this," Mr. Rabin said when he met the delegation in parliament.

"The PLO has not set up the structures for administering this aid," Mr. Rabin said referring to the \$2.4 billion in assistance pledged by the international community through the World Bank to help the Palestinian economy take off. Mr. Rabin said the autonomy granted to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho was a "test." But he said "the Palestinian authority which is supposed to take over does not even have an address. There is no leadership," Rabin said he hoped "the Palestinians will realise that waving flags is not enough to provide food for the people."

Man jumps off Iran Majlis balcony

TEHRAN (AFP) — A man was injured when he jumped off a balcony onto the floor of the Iranian Majlis while it was in session Tuesday, an AFP correspondent witnessed. The man did not say a word before the five- or six-metre jump, and there was no explanation of why he did it. He was taken to hospital and the session continued.

Algerian lawyer killed

ALGIERS (AFP) — Lawyer Belghoul Saadi, 42, has been killed after being kidnapped in continued unrest in Algeria, the daily newspaper L'Opinion reported Tuesday. It said that Mr. Saadi, kidnapped Friday, was found with his throat cut Saturday. Mr. Saadi was taken from his home in Haouch Al Mokhi, in an Islamic fundamentalist sector east of Algiers and known as the "triangle of fear." The daily did not say who carried out the killing but noted that Mr. Saadi was a defender of Islamic fundamentalists in Algerian courts. He was the fourth lawyer to be killed in recent months.

Turkish troops kill 27 rebel Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops killed 27 separatist Kurdish guerrillas in recent clashes, security officials said Friday. Fifteen members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were killed on the Tendurek Mountains in eastern Turkey, the Anatolian News Agency reported. It did not say when the clash occurred. Troops killed eight other PKK guerrillas Thursday night in the eastern province of Mushi. Four more PKK rebels were killed Friday in a continuing operation on the Kato Mountain in Hakkari province, a statement from the regional governor's office in Diyarbakir city said. It said PKK losses had reached 61 since Monday when the operation in Kato began. More than 11,700 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK began its campaign for an independent state in the southeast.

Aid workers say Sudan crisis being forgotten

NAIROBI (R) — Aid workers have said southern Sudan was gripped by widespread fighting and hunger but that the plight of thousands was being forgotten as the world tired of one of Africa's longest wars.

Delegates from the Khartoum government and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were expected to sign an agreement opening land, river and train routes across battle lines after weeks of on-off talks in Nairobi, officials said.

"We have to make progress on this to convince donors to maintain interest," said Philip O'Brien of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS).

"In 1992 Somalia it happened and took priority. It's happening again with Rwanda," he said, naming other major African upheavals which have grabbed world headlines.

Despite the fact that thousands are starving in southern Sudan after a drought and the effects of an 11-year war, Mr. O'Brien said two foreign donors had decided to send funds destined for Sudan to help victims of the Rwanda crisis instead.

Yet U.N. officials said aid workers in the field were reporting alarmingly high malnutrition rates in many parts of the vast south.

"I've seen truly horrifying, astonishing pictures being brought out by missionaries," said one Western aid official.

The humanitarian accord will open roads into Sudan from Kenya and Uganda, as well as enforce agreements already reached for the delivery of food by train and the tributaries of the Nile, aid workers said.

Some aid workers believe that despite the effects of drought, the reason for widespread hunger is that people are being driven from their homes by fresh fighting and they are in areas almost inaccessible for the delivery of food aid.

But while the warring parties dithered at the negotiating table and battled it out in the swamps and bushlands of the south for months this year, donors spend millions of dollars airlifting food to the region.

One transport plane being used by the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) costs about \$900,000 to charter, aid officials said.

The U.S. and U.N. have paid for the aircraft only up to mid-June.

The talks in Nairobi, brokered by regional African states, have not even begun to discuss the issues of a ceasefire

South Yemen takes its revenge

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — For Southern Yemen, its declaration of independence was revenge for four years of stagnation since unification with the north.

The merger of north and south had turned into an "annexation," according to Ali Salem Al Beidh, the sacked vice president of unified Yemen who Saturday proclaimed the Yemeni Democratic Republic (YDR).

The declaration — so far without international recognition — came after more than two weeks of clashes between Mr. Beidh's southern troops and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern forces.

The civil war erupted after a nine-month political crisis over the running of the country, with Mr. Beidh insisting on decentralisation while Mr. Saleh accused the south of working for secession.

The southerners have accused Mr. Saleh of not dividing the budget evenly for the development of the provinces and failing to check poverty in Yemen, one of the world's poorest nations.

According to Western reports, four years of unification between the conservative, tribal North and former Marxist South Yemen have failed to stem structural decay.

Illiteracy is running at 46 per cent of the male and 85 per cent of the female populations, average life expectancy does not exceed 47 years, and the infant mortality rate, 131 per thousand, is among the worst in the world.

The Gross National Product is stagnant at between \$500 to \$700 million per year per capita.

But the southerners' main grievance since unification on May 22, 1990 — was that Mr. Saleh's rule failed to produce reform to face up to the most serious challenge, the exploding population rate.

The population of Yemen is expected to increase from the current 14 million to 35 million in the year 2015, as 54 per cent of the population are 14 years old and below.

Yemenis will then account for 60 to 65 per cent of the population in the entire Arabian peninsula, according to Western reports.

Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has said it raised the alarm and urged Sanaa to make use of resources, including the 320,000 barrel per day oil production, to lay down the basis of a development programme.

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh signed a reconciliation agreement in Amman on Feb. 20, but it failed to curb clashes later the same month between northern and southern army units.

Failure to start implementing the deal on decentralisation prompted YSP leaders to gather around Mr. Beidh in the southern stronghold of Aden, regenerating the structure of the former South Yemen.

Southern officials have said they wanted to escape the bleak economic and social prospects of union, and also to break free of the northern grip and that of the Islamic Party Al Islah which backs Mr. Saleh.

Big power cataclysms eased Israel out of Gaza

By Bradley Burston
Reuters

TEL AVIV — For many Palestinians, the 27 years that passed before Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip felt like forever.

But the withdrawal under Israel's peace deal with its once deadly foe the PLO might have taken much longer had it not been for bedrock shifts in the roles of faraway superpowers.

The U.S.-led Gulf war offensive against Iraq and the breakup of the Soviet Union were crucial in turning the Israel-PLO relationship from relentless blood feud to uneasy partnership in Palestinian self-rule, analysts said.

An Israeli Defence Ministry strategic analyst said the end of the cold war was a kind of "declaration of inde-

pendence" that allowed both Israelis and Palestinians to secretly conclude the peace deal they signed in Washington in September.

"With the U.S. and post-Soviet Russia as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, the sides could move forward knowing that Syria, a pivotal player, would be limited in its response over being 'left out' as the sides moved forward," he said.

"Syria, without Soviet might at its back, simply doesn't have the same crack to its whip," said the analyst, who declined to be identified.

Joseph Alpher, director of Israel's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the collapse of the Soviet Union created a one-superpower world that paved the way for Israeli-PLO peace.

"When the U.S. led the coalition in the Gulf war it

thrust itself as that single superpower into the Middle East in a way unprecedented in the last 50 years," Mr. Alpher said.

Most of the PLO's Arab allies backed Washington's move, and the organisation's support for Iraq took a crippling toll.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"In siding with Iraq, the PLO emerged from the war in a position of weakness unique in its history," Mr. Alpher said.

"It had effectively burned its bridges with the Arab World, with (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat persona non grata in most Arab capitals, in Cairo, in Riyadh, certainly in Damascus."

The PLO lost its traditional financial aid sources, mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait,

and its coffers emptied rapidly.

"Clearly, this had a rather major influence on Arafat's readiness to make compromises," Mr. Alpher said.

Mr. Arafat's money woes also compromised his ability to counter a rising threat to his leadership posed by Islamic militants who capitalised on anti-Western undercurrents among Palestinians.

Keen to overcome them, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's hardline opposition to talking to "PLO killer terrorists," Washington brought muscular leverage to bear.

Mr. Shamir, reminded by the administration of Israel's vulnerable high profile as the largest single recipient of U.S. foreign aid, agreed to meet Palestinians not explicitly tied to the PLO when Middle East talks began in

Madrid in October 1991.

"Shamir got an offer he couldn't refuse," Mr. Alpher said. "But he has made it pretty clear what his real intentions were."

A bitter foe of ceding occupied Arab land, Mr. Shamir said after he was crushed by Yitzhak Rabin in a 1992 election he had intended to drag out the peace talks for 10 years.

Winds from Washington blew warmer after the poll, as Mr. Rabin announced a partial freeze on Jewish settlements and promised Palestinian self-rule in the occupied lands within a year.

The Bush administration promptly announced the granting of \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israeli immigrant needs.

Washington has since signalled its approval in gifts of used aircraft, and sales of an

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Ordy

18:00 N.B.A. sport

19:00 News in French

19:15 Le Journal de L'Histoire

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Too Close for Comfort

21:00 Prime

21:10 The Best of Magic

21:30 The World of The Thirties

22:00 News in English

22:30 Faldker

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr

05:32 (Sunrise) Duhur

12:32 Asr

16:13 Maghrib

21:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 627854.

Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 62785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Armenian Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 622626.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bullfinch supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm with winds north-westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, warm weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max temp. 20/34

Amman 26/40

Aqaba 18/38

Dead Sea 23/40

Jordan Valley 23/40

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Yestarday's high temperature: Amman 35, Aqaba 41, Humidity readings: Amman 10 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 62111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642602

Malbas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 84545

Al-Musheer Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdal 6661277

Al-Ahli, Abdal 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajren 771010

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751112

Army, J. Amn 8911115

Queen Alia Hospital 60224030

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)905600

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732

Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)989090

IBRD:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)347100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)311111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:00 Agaba (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:15 Larnaca (RJ)

10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

10:35 London (RJ)

10:35 Istanbul (RJ)

11:35 Berlin, London (RJ)

12:40 Cesa Britain, Tunis (RJ)

12:40 Istanbul (RJ)

12:40 Colombo (RJ)

12:40 Beirut (add) (RJ)

12:40 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)

12:40 Riyadh (RJ)

12:40 New Delhi (RJ)

12:40 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)

11:10 Damascus (AZ)

11:25 Larnaca (CY)

11:30 Jeddah (SA)

11:35 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

15:40 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PI)

16:20 Algiers (AA)

18:00 Paris (AF)

21:15 Beirut (ME)

23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Agaba (RJ)

09:00 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

10:35 Berlin, London (RJ)

12:40 Cesa Britain, Tunis (RJ)

12:40 Istanbul (RJ)

12:40 Colombo (RJ)

12:40 Beirut (add) (RJ)

12:40 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)

12:40 Riyadh (RJ)

12:40 New Delhi (RJ)

12:40 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 Beirut, Paris (AF)

09:15 Beirut (ME)

11:25 Cairo (MS)

11:30 Rome (AZ)

12:15 London (RJ)

12:30 Jeddah (SU)

14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)

16:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)

17:30 Algiers, Sharjah (AA)

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Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Underpinner price in fcs per kg.

Apple 550/650

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Banana (Guammar) 680

Cabbage 220/180

Carrot 350/270

Cauliflower 350/250

Cucumbers (large) 300/200

Cucumbers (small) 260/200

Eggplant 600/400

Green beans 400/200

Lemon 500/400

Marrow (large) 280/200

Marrow (small) 500/400

Mushrooms 400/200

Orange 240/140

Onion (dry) 150/100

Peas 480/320

Pepper (hot) 300/200

Pepper (sweet) 350/250

Potato 350/250

Tomato 300/200

String beans 450/300

Watermelon 650/500

Vine Leaves 650/450



LAI TO REST: Pallbearers Tuesday carry the coffin of Her Royal Highness Princess Saleha, daughter of the late King Hussein Bin Ali and sister of the late King Abdullah

Bin Al Hussein, to her final resting place in the Royal Cemetery (Petra photo)

Crown Prince says worst is over

(Continued from page 1)

surely no conflict is insoluble. The events of the past year have opened the door to peace in the Middle East. The mutual recognition of the (Palestine Liberation Organisation) PLO and Israel gave the region an unprecedented opportunity to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, a conflict that has taken its toll on us all. The recent implementation of their historic agreement over Gaza and Jericho is another step in the right direction. But we must be under no illusions about the difficulty of our task. Future war must be made inconceivable, the wounds that have kept Arab and Israeli apart must somehow be healed.

There is a tendency in the news media to focus on the most recent and dramatic developments in discussing the Middle East. For many of you, the massacre of Muslim worshippers that took place in Hebron earlier this year may be yesterday's news. But for those who live in the occupied territories, for those who have for generations lived and died with this conflict, it is still a matter of grave concern. It highlights the need, above all, for individuals on the ground to participate in the process of peace-making and confidence-building. Much remains to be done if the conflict is to be resolved. We are past the point when symbolic gestures, televised world-wide, carry currency. We have arrived at the point when the substance of peace must be negotiated in detail; when the foundations of a new Middle Eastern order must be laid, block by block. Concepts for fresh patterns of inter and intra-regional relationships must be thought out, so that they can be put in place to the benefit of all. This is not a stuff of headlines. But this is the stuff of which true peace is made.

Jordan has demonstrated its commitment to this kind of peace-making time and again over the years. Though we were not directly involved with the outbreak of hostilities, from the early days of the U.N. Gunnar Jarring mission in 1967 to the Madrid Conference in 1991, Jordan's approach to making peace has been clear and consistent. We were the first country of the region to advocate a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Jordan played an active role in formulating United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for an end to the conflict and the exchange of land for peace. Jordan has consistently supported the U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for peace in the Middle East. We promoted the genesis of the Madrid peace process, and enabled the Palestinians to assume their proper role, firstly by disengaging from the West Bank, and then by providing an umbrella for Palestinian negotiators to participate in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Jordan signed a common agenda for peace talks with Israel last year. The common agenda represents a significant achievement, but it is no more than a first step on the road to peace. There is still much to be achieved, and much to be negotiated, before the attainment of a comprehensive

peace. Jordan is prepared to enter a peace treaty with Israel, once the issues listed in the agenda have been fully discussed and settled to the satisfaction of all. We seek to strike a balance between the need to address the agenda items on the one hand, and the need to implement interim agreements and arrangements to sustain the momentum of peace on the other. Foremost among the outstanding issues are the questions of boundaries, refugees, security and water.

These issues are of the essence in the making of peace. We feel that there is a desperate need for a mechanism to effect the delineation and demarcation of our boundaries. It will be extremely difficult to make arrangements in other fields before the issues of borders and security are resolved. What sense can it make to speak of Jordanian and Israeli interests and concerns when neither "Jordan" nor "Israel" have been defined? The question has direct relevance to the recent events in the occupied territories and in Israel. Within the security framework, the problem of Israeli settlements must be resolved. Their questionable legality notwithstanding, the settlements represent a time-bomb which may be primed whenever a group of settlers, or any other organisations opposed to peace-making, wish to derail the peace process. Peace cannot be made and should not be made under such circumstances.

We have submitted several proposals to deal with such issues, and stand ready to undertake project studies in these fields. We believe that a Boundary Commission will help to resolve the issue of boundaries, and we have put forward this proposal as a concrete contribution to the architecture of a lasting regional peace. On the issue of refugees, we are negotiating within the parameters of international law.

Another issue that will demand considerable attention is the final status of the holy city of Jerusalem. A city revered for its shrines and its history by Muslims, Christians and Jews alike must be the ultimate symbol of peace. It is our belief that the religious significance of Jerusalem is such that its status is a truly international concern. It cannot be settled by Israelis and Palestinians alone, for the holy city should not be subject to the exclusive political control of any state. In determining the future of Jerusalem, Jordan believes that a vital distinction needs to be made between religious and political sovereignty. We have formulated detailed proposals to effect such a distinction, for we believe that a proper resolution to the Jerusalem question is essential in the search for peace.

We have also implemented several substantial confidence building measures. We have re-opened Jordanian bank branches in the occupied territories, in order to assist in the development of the Palestinian economy. To the same end, we have signed an economic cooperation agreement with the Palestinians, and participated in the training of Palestinian police officers. We have established the Trilateral Working

Group to look at issues of interest to Jordan, the U.S. and Israel, and this group may now be promoted to ministerial level. We are optimistic about the prospects for a Middle East economic conference and for a Jordan Rift Valley development concept, but are awaiting positive developments in this field. We are, of course, prepared to consider other mechanisms to build confidence regionally.

While engaged in the substance of negotiation, Jordan has been considering more long-term mechanisms to deal with the legacies of the conflict in a reciprocal manner. We have evolved a vision of a new regional order, underpinned by a number of political and economic mechanisms that could help render future conflict unthinkable.

Attention has been focused on practical measures to generate a process for regional security and cooperation. The promotion of sustainable modes of negotiation to resolve all outstanding regional disputes is increasingly necessary when the ultimate goal is a peaceful Middle East without barriers. An example exists in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). While this organisation has faced its share of criticism, particularly in dealing with conflicts such as that in the former Yugoslavia, it has successfully articulated a code of conduct for times of peace. This is precisely what the Middle East requires. We in Jordan believe that this conceptual framework can contribute to lasting peace in the region, and we have accordingly long called for a Helsinki Process, a Conference on Security and Cooperation, for the Middle East (CSCME).

It should be made clear that the CSC process is not envisaged as a substitute for the peace process, but as a natural complement to it, and one that can remain in place to the benefit of all after the achievement of a negotiated peace. We do not propose the wholesale adoption of a one-off blueprint, but the adaptation of a flexible paradigm. We are entirely open to alternatives, so long as they can provide us with what we desperately need: neutral and low-key fora at which the common and inter-connected challenges of security and cooperation can be discussed in a global idiom.

Within the context of a regional security regime the size, role and function of armed forces in the individual states of the region are likely to undergo radical changes. The transformation would be in favour of peace keeping. Jordan's armed forces have led the way in this respect. Our personnel are already serving in this capacity under the U.N. command as far afield as Mozambique, Liberia and in former Yugoslavia. More significantly, Israel's military superiority and the organic bond established with the U.S. through the doubtful syndrome of "arms for flexibility," or "hardware for software," which was devised by Henry Kissinger, would have to be considered and reassessed under a regional security system. Regional security must be so both in scope and substance. As shared values and aims take root, the notion of favoritism will become increasingly invi-

dious, and increasingly insupportable.

Clearly, the region comprises a diverse collection of peoples, who nevertheless share many historical experiences and perspectives. The European Union has conceptually divided the Middle East into three main areas: The Maghreb, the Mashreq and Turkey. From Jordan's point of view, at the epicentre of the region, the Middle East straddles and extends beyond the frontiers of Europe and Asia. It is integrally tied to both continents, with the Mediterranean serving as a link, rather than a barrier. In the long term, the future of the Middle East and that of Europe cannot be separated. In this ever more inter-dependent world, the interests of our two regions are increasingly at one. It would therefore be wise, in formulating strategies for the future of the region, to consider the European experience, for we in Jordan believe that the Middle East can have no future unless it evolves a global vision, backed up by sub-regional and regional instruments. The next step would therefore be to consider which instruments would be appropriate.

A free-trade zone across the Middle East, allowing for the free movement of labour, goods, capital and services, would represent a significant achievement to this end. Arrangements for a Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of EFTA or NAFTA — would allow the region to play a more creative role in the world economy. In aspiring to this goal, it will be necessary to consider the freedom of movement of all factors of production. In this context, a dialogue on the rights of migrant labour must be a vital prerequisite, for the existence of surplus labour in the north, and capital in the south, immediately suggests a viable regional trade regime.

Of course, many outstanding issues must be resolved before such a vision can be realised. Even under conditions of peace, the disparity between the Israeli economy and those of the other regional parties, particularly the core parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, demands appropriate measures to fashion a balanced relationship in a graduated manner. The examples of Spain and Portugal within the EU are worth considering in this regard.

A GATT-EU approach may be the best way to deal with the economic legacies of the conflict, and to put the region on a viable, sustainable economic footing. Jordan believes that in seeking to evolve a healthy trade and investment regime, the experience of other countries — such as the Zone Franche arrangements between Geneva and France — will be invaluable. The European Commission has recently stressed the need for a common regional vision as a basis for co-operation in the Middle East. In a communication on this subject, it states:

"Partnership requires balanced economic development. If cooperation is to succeed it is essential to reduce excessive disparities in income levels between potential partners in the region." It adds that: "Cooperation should go in two directions: the pooling of common capacities and the

Jordan marks independence anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today marks the 48th anniversary of its independence from Britain.

The Kingdom achieved its independence in 1946, fulfilling one of the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which was the liberation of Arab countries from foreign domination.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that modern Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein strongly adheres to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt, launched by the late King Hussein Bin Ali earlier this century.

King Hussein put the Kingdom's stands into practice through his response to the Arab summit meetings which were designed to unify Arab ranks and deal with the Palestine problem, said Petra.

It is in implementation of these principles and stands that Jordan joined the Arab-Israeli peace talks and called for an international conference to help re-establish peace and security in the Middle East, said the agency.

At the Pan-Arab level, the agency said that Jordan has been advocating an Arab solution to internal Arab disputes. This attitude was best manifested during the 1990 Gulf crisis when King Hussein sought to end the dispute through an Arab solution and most recently in the Yemeni conflict when he succeeded in bringing together the leaders of Yemen to sign an agreement on reconciliation in Amman, noted the agency.

On the domestic front, the country has realised the first steps towards building institutions dedicated to enhancing democracy, freedom, political pluralism and respect for human rights.

On this occasion, said Petra, Jordanians recall the numerous achievements of the Kingdom under the reign of King Hussein who dedicated his life and efforts to serving his nation.

Wednesday has been declared a public holiday to mark the anniversary. All government departments and public institutions will remain closed.



The late King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

tackling of common problems ... implying, at some stage, freedom of movement for goods, services, capital and labour."

It is clear, then, that international investment in development projects which serve the region and its peoples is the way forward. It is equally important that such projects be founded upon sound concepts, and that they receive the support of international financial institutions, governments and multinational corporations alike. A basket approach, covering human cooperation, resource cooperation and security, must be evolved. Peace requires an enduring structure that can tackle the over-arching problems of the economies of the region: disparities created by conflict, over-extended public sectors, addition to aid and oil revenues. An economic framework is needed to deal with such problems.

Many other instruments could play a part in forging such a framework. For example, regional bodies and charters are needed to ensure equity in resource-related areas such as energy and water; while incentives for local sustainable development programmes can support policies that guarantee a future for all. A regional debt sinking fund, and a bank for Middle East reconstruction and development, will promote stable and open financial practices, improving the chances for the region to play a dynamic part in the world economy.

The concept of reconstruction is particularly vital. The Arab-Israeli conflict has exacted a severe toll on the region. With the promise of peace in the region, the international community looks increasingly towards the occupied territories. Jordan fully supports the effort to give the Palestinian people the tools they need to realise their historic dreams. We will do everything in our power to ensure the success of arrangements for Palestinian interim self-government. But although the Palestine question has always been the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the entire region has suffered. Vast debt burdens have been accumulated as a direct result of the conflict; unimaginable demographic strains have been imposed on countries with scarce resources. Peace, then, cannot be piecemeal. To use those famous words, I put it to you that peace must be comprehensive, and it must be just, if it is to be lasting. All must be given the chance, and the tools, to play their part in building a new Middle Eastern order.

Gazans mourn

(Continued from page 1)

anti-peace slogans. PNSF members actively participated in Tuesday's funeral to make their presence felt. Peace slogans appeared not to irritate them as much as the guns sported by Hamas members. "Soon, very soon," said Palestinian police officer Rayes, "only the Palestinian police-men will have guns," he said.



AL ADHA PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday leads worshippers at prayers on Al Adha feast before his departure with Her Majesty Queen Noor on a several-day visit to the United Kingdom. After the prayers, the King, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, other members of the Royal Family, the prime minister and senior government officials visited the tombs of King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, King Talal Bin Abdullah, Queen Zein Al

Sharaf and Queen Alia where they recited verses of the Holy Koran. Prince Mohammad, who led Royal Family members and dignitaries to bid farewell to the King and Queen, was sworn in as Regent before Their Majesties' departure. The King and Queen are accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the chief of the Royal Court (Petra photo)

Peace forces head for Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — Another group of security forces Tuesday left Amman for Croatia to join the U.N. peace keeping forces there. The group was seen off by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan who delivered a brief address to the force before its departure.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by 20 Jordanian and Iraqi artists (including Widad Orfalli, Hussein Da'seh, Waddah Al Ward, Adnan Al Hiba and Mahmoud Hussein) at Orfalli Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 644451, 626932).
- Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreih and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Al Mashaidi at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 626932).
- Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Laweidh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

10 pilgrims die during Haj

MUDAWARAH (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi announced Tuesday that 10 Jordanian and Palestinian pilgrims who had gone to Mecca for the season's Haj, which ended with Al Adha feast Saturday, died of natural causes.

Speaking upon crossing into Jordan from Saudi Arabia with the first group of pilgrims returning from Medina and Mecca, Dr. Abbadi said that four of the deceased died in Medina just prior to the start of the pilgrimage season, and the others died during the pilgrimage.

Dr. Abbadi said the arrangements made for the pilgrims to ensure their comfort during the

trip to and from Mecca and the accommodations were satisfactory. He said none of the pilgrims had contracted any disease or suffered any accident or physical problem as a result of the congestion of worshippers at the holy sites.

The minister added that he was satisfied with the services offered to the pilgrims by health and other missions accompanying the pilgrims.

According to Saudi Arabian health ministry sources, 829 pilgrims died as a result of overcrowding, old age or heart conditions.

There were 646 cases of sun stroke and 5,752 cases of worshippers suffering from exhaustion.

Congratulations to HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ON THEIR INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

A master plan for repairing the damage of the occupation

PALESTINIAN POLICE have entered Gaza and Jericho to the jubilant welcome of Palestinian residents. The transfer of authority having taken place, the first phase of Palestinian self-rule is set to begin.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) faces difficult responsibilities in the days and months ahead, and it must design and implement major projects to repair the damage incurred under 27 years of harsh and brutal occupation. World Bank (WB) and aid projects have been proposed for major infrastructural developments in housing, road building, electrification and sanitation among others. A master plan must be shaped that will prioritise projects and set timetables for their implementation.

But while such three to five plans are being developed, there is a need to address some short-term needs as well. One's vision must not be so broad or so focused on the future that immediate needs are ignored.

Unemployment in Gaza is staggeringly high, the physical environment is a mess and for thousands of young people, the only organised activities have been demonstrating and throwing stones at the Israeli military.

Resolving needs such as these will not wait for major infrastructural projects to be developed. Immediate steps must be taken to bring the unemployment problem down to a manageable level, improve the quality of life, get people involved in nation-building and organise and direct youthful energy. Without such steps, the region will not become stable enough to allow for a peaceful transition to self-rule.

There is an oft-stated aversion to public sector job creation; and most development agencies cite the well-worn mantra of "sustainable development" as the criteria for project approval. While it is true that private sector development is the key to long-term economic growth, the environment must be hospitable for such activity.

So as the long-term projects are being developed and ground is being broken for infrastructure work, and while the foreign private sector capital seeks out long-term investment opportunities in the territories, let me propose some immediate and admittedly humble public sector and public-private sector cooperative projects that would contribute to solving short-term problems and creating a more stable and hospitable environment in Gaza and Jericho.

The creation of a Gaza environmental corps

Both the problem of unemployment and the need to clean the surface environment of Gaza could be tackled by the creation of a Gaza environmental corps (GEC). This entity could function somewhat like the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930s — an emergency public works job creation programme. The CCC was designed primarily to offset the massive unemployment left in the wake of the Great Depression, but also worked well to tackle the very serious environmental degradation in the American Midwest. But the rate of unemployment in Gaza is higher than in the U.S. at the peak of the depression and the environmental problems are more serious.

By recruiting up to 2,000 young Palestinians, the GEC would absorb a significant number of the unemployed. It

would provide them with uniforms and training to organise environmental clean-up, waste disposal and other small clean-up projects throughout the Gaza Strip.

In addition to gainful employment (with the multiplier effect that would have on the local economy) and a cleaner, more hospitable area, this GEC would enable the residents of Gaza to restore a pride in their land and some immediate sense of improvement in their environment.

A programme like the GEC must from the outset be defined as a short-term project to be replaced by whatever public works entity is created by the Palestinian National Authority. It can be assumed that within six months construction and other major infrastructure projects could be underway which would create more needed jobs.

Gaza-West Bank soccer league

One of the major challenges facing the Palestinian leadership and Palestinian society in general is the absence of organised youth activities in Gaza and the West Bank. For many young people the activity of the intifada filled a void. And even now, for many, gathering in groups and throwing stones at Israeli settlers and soldiers remains their only outlet for youthful energy.

As the occupation slowly recedes, the need for organised youth activity will become even more apparent. One Palestinian academic noted that "our children need to be given a chance to be children again. They need to go back to school and back to play."

One of the best ways to provide that opportunity for the children of the West Bank and Gaza is to create a national West Bank-Gaza soccer league. Such an organised youth programme would operate in every town and village and provide leagues and teams for different age groups. The teams would compete on their local level and in inter-community matches as well.

A proposal has been developed to provide fields, uniforms shoes and balls for eight such community-based leagues, which would create an organised recreational programme for up to 6,000 young people.

Creation of a micro-investment fund

While major investment projects for the West Bank and Gaza have been designed by international agencies and foreign investors, the Palestinian economy as it now exists is comprised primarily of very small establishments. Of the 3,688 industrial enterprises in the West Bank and Gaza, 60 per cent employ fewer than four workers and only 7.5 per cent employ more than 10 workers.

As small as they may be, these establishments are creative and dynamic and make a significant contribution to the economy of the territories. They have been able to adapt to a harsh occupation and not only succeed, but in many instances to diversify and grow. It is important, then, that as plans are developed to expand the Palestinian economy, the strength of these small-scale enterprises not be ignored. Failing to support these businesses would be detrimental not only to the economy of the West Bank and Gaza, but to the social fabric

of Palestinian society as well. If Palestinians were to lose their small business sector, such a loss would negatively affect the individual entrepreneurship and initiative so important at any stage in development.

Not all of those small businesses can or will grow, but those that can require access to relatively small amounts of capital to purchase raw materials, take on additional employees, improve their product or gain access to new markets.

The local craft industry is a case in point. Long recognised as an important component of the Palestinian economy as well as in the social and cultural fabric of Palestinian society, the craft industry has fallen on hard times. In 1967 there were 3,000 individuals employed in the commercial sector of the craft industry making items from olive wood, mother of pearl and glass. Today there are reportedly less than 300 so employed.

It is expected that with stability and peace there will be an increase in tourism. This, along with the new opportunities for Palestinians to export their products, will provide expanded markets for the craft industry.

To enable growth, to meet these new opportunities, and to meet the expected increased demand for their products, the small workshops that produce handicrafts need access to small amounts of capital to purchase the materials required to increase production and to bring workers back into the craft.

A micro-investment fund that would provide small, low-interest loans (or no-interest loans with payback based on the sale of the final product) would greatly enhance the prospects for this significant sector of the economy (and an important vehicle for the preservation of Palestinian history and culture) to expand and prosper.

Such a revolving micro-investment fund would play a critical role in assisting all export-related industries in Gaza and the West Bank, including the agricultural sector, where it has been estimated that a revolving fund of four million dollars could help support the export of over \$25 million in agricultural exports annually.

Projects such as these are not intended to replace the larger and more dramatic high-impact undertakings that are envisioned by the World Bank, the Palestinian National Authority and individual Palestinian entrepreneurs. But ground-breaking for those projects is still months away — and the needs in Gaza and the West Bank are immediate.

Implementing short-term, low-cost and small-scale projects will help address realities on the ground while those larger projects are being planned, making it possible to bring the fruits of peace more quickly to thousands of Palestinians in the newly autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho. Such projects will have an immediate impact in improving the environment, helping to create the stable and hospitable situation needed for major investors to operate in the area with confidence.

Providing opportunities for the indigenous private sector to grow will also contribute to preserving the structure of Palestinian society and give the Palestinians of Gaza and Jericho a direct personal investment in ensuring the success of the nation-building now underway.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute

Justice on death row

THE HARSH treatment of the Egyptian Bar Association at the hands of Egyptian security forces last week when members of the legal body protested the mysterious death of one of their colleagues was an affront to the entire legal profession worldwide. The police in Cairo used brutal force to disperse the protesters including firearms, tear gas and physical force. It so happens that lawyers are considered and treated as part of the state's judicial arm and any threat to their physical safety and interference with the conduct of their duties are an affront to all systems of government.

This latest episode against the legal profession in Egypt started when one Egyptian attorney at law, arrested on April 26, died during his detention. Under all civilised norms, the death of a detained person, any person, calls for an immediate inquiry. This much the Egyptian authorities did not do and in the process fuelled further suspicions that the dead lawyer lost his life due to ill-treatment, including torture, for his role in defending Islamists.

Members of the Egyptian Bar Association had all the reasons to suspect foul play, and the least that could be expected of them was to demonstrate their collective wrath and demand an effective investigation. Why the Egyptian authorities chose the counter-effective way of dealing with this case and in the process drew harsh criticism from all corners of the world is still a puzzle, given Cairo's public commitment to human rights and democracy.

The fact that lawyers in Egypt can be handled so brutally and illegally casts doubt on the depth of the Egyptian democratisation process.

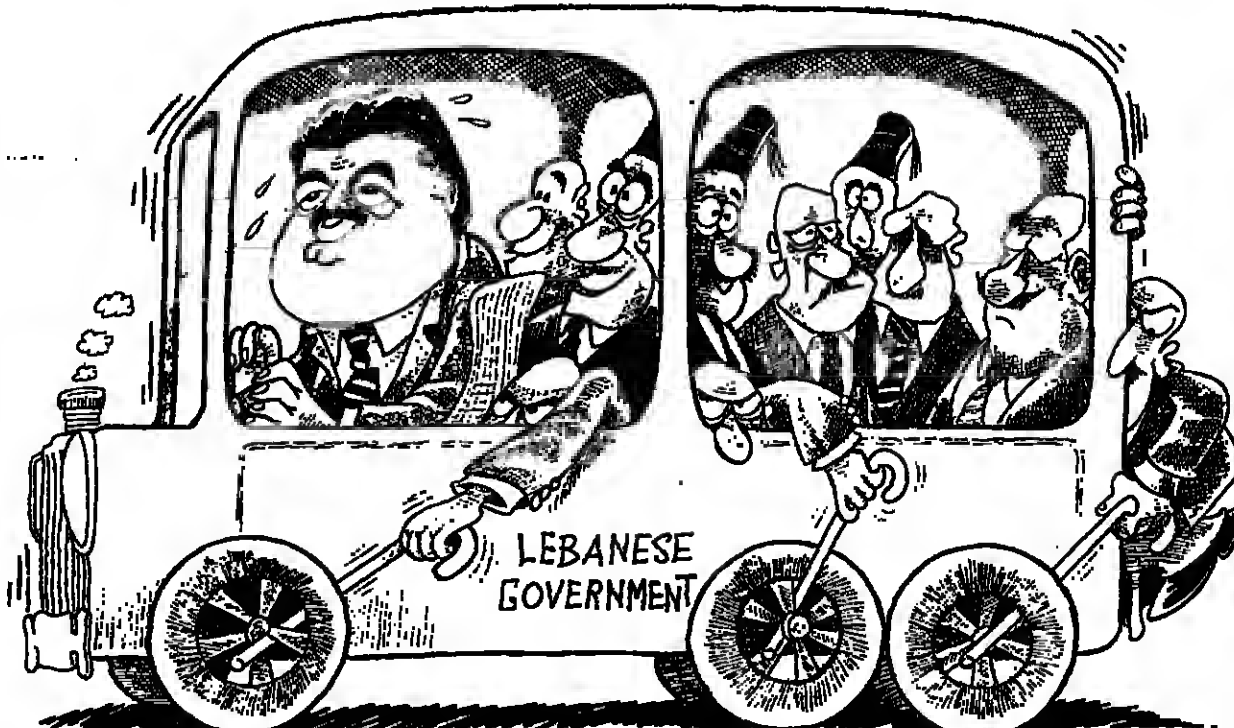
The Egyptian people can now legitimately claim that if members of the judicial arm of government can be so roughly handled and even shot at for merely asking questions about the sudden death of a colleague while in custody, then they have little chance of receiving protection from arbitrary detention and mistreatment. Cairo can still rectify this standoff with the Bar Association by probing deeper not only in the yet unexplained death of the Egyptian lawyer but also into the entire situation that ensued. This is important since Egypt should serve as a good example of human rights' protection and promotion, especially when it comes to the legal profession in view of the fact that the country's legal profession is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the Arab World and the African continent.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOR THE first time in 27 years, Al Adha feast this year had a different and more pleasant taste for the Palestinians who had just started their autonomy rule, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Thousands of men and women met after a very long break and absence, and many dreams were fulfilled after a long period of occupation, said Sultan Al Hattab. Those who have returned to Gaza and Jericho are mere vanguards of the multitudes of Palestinians expected to return to their homeland in two years time from now, said the writer. Al Adha feast was a real occasion for the Palestinians to rejoice over the return of Jericho and Gaza to Palestinian rule, and it was a moment for the people to reflect on the benefits of the peace process, which enabled this dream to come about, said the writer. No one has dreamed of the possibility of regaining the usurped homeland through negotiations and no one had imagined that Al Adha feast this year would have a double rejoicing for the Palestinians, he added. The writer expressed hope that the return of Gaza and Jericho would open the door wide for further progress along all tracks and eventually achieve the long aspired peace.

REFLECTING on the sad situation in war-torn Yemen during Al Adha feast, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the Yemeni leaders should have taken lessons from civil strife that had devastated other parts of the Arab World and opted for dialogue and reason. The Yemeni leaders should have learned the lesson of Lebanon where warring factions succeeded in devastating their country in the name of protecting Lebanon's interests, said Saleh Al Qallab. It is most regrettable to see Yemeni leaders sacrificing their nation's interests at the altar of selfishness during the holy occasion of sacrifice in Al Adha feast and disregarding the innocent lives they are ending and the achievements of their country that are being ruined, said the writer. He said the Yemeni leaders should realise that those encouraging them to continue the fratricidal war are their real enemies and the enemies of unity in the Arab World.

M. KAHIL



New Russia parliament alive but not kicking — yet

By Anatoly Verbin
Reuter

MOSCOW — The new Russian parliament, which emerged from the blood-stained ruins of its predecessor, is alive but not really kicking — yet.

In its four months of life, the legislature has generally avoided open confrontation with President Boris Yeltsin. He in turn is trying to avoid the outward hostility which marked his relations with the old parliament during 1993.

The question is — will it last until presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 1996? or will Russia stun the world again by a plunge into political violence?

The answer is unclear, but there are some indications that Russia's political calm will not last.

For the time being, "tank syndrome" seems to be prevailing. The opposition, both outside and inside parliament, has yet to get its act together fully since Mr. Yeltsin's tanks crushed a bloody uprising by supporters of the old parliament in October.

But a new opposition centre is slowly forming around former vice-president Alexander Rutskoy, one of the leaders of the revolt. He is pressing for early presidential elections and is unrepentant

over his role in the bloodshed.

"The aim of the political opposition is to celebrate the next (World War II) victory day in May 1995 without Mr. Yeltsin's regime," he told his supporters recently.

The new parliament consists of two separate bodies. The part-time Federation Council Upper Chamber consists mostly of regional bosses and is chaired by Mr. Yeltsin's ally, Vladimir Shumeiko.

Its only clash with the president came when it rejected Mr. Yeltsin's choice of Russian prosecutor-general.

But many analysts predict more tensions with the Kremlin when it comes to approving major laws, dividing power and money between Moscow and the regions.

To the State Duma Lower House, a full-time 450-member body. Communists, conservatives and ultra-nationalists outnumber reformers.

Preoccupied with moving from one place to another and with determining its staff, privileges and other "organisational matters" the Duma is not yet doing what it was designed for: producing laws.

It infuriated Mr. Yeltsin in February by pardoning the October mutineers, as well as hardliners who led a 1991 coup attempt against Mikhail

Two decades on, Indian nuclear plan still a puzzle

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

BOMBAY — Exactly two decades since joining the nuclear club, India is still struggling to calm international fears over its intentions to one of the world's potential flashpoints.

On Wednesday, the 20th anniversary of India's only nuclear test, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao seeks to allay those fears in an address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

India insists its nuclear programme has peaceful aims, but critics, led by arch-foe Pakistan, insist it has military ends, and thus threatens regional peace.

P.K. Iyengar, India's former Atomic Energy Commission chairman, in a commentary published on Wednesday, said India's first and only nuclear explosion, on May 18, 1974, "shook the world." In doing so, it served its purpose and made further Indian nuclear tests unnecessary, he said.

Analysts say that India, despite fighting three wars with Pakistan since they gained freedom from Britain in 1947, believes nuclear-armed China is the region's main military threat. India and China fought a brief border war in 1961.

That belief is at the root of New Delhi's reluctance to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Washington considers the NPT key to continue warming relations after decades of cold war distance.

To curb nuclear proliferation, Washington proposed capping, reducing and ultimately eliminating what it believes are India's and Pakistan's nuclear weapons programmes.

If both countries agree to that initiative, Islamabad could take possession of 38 paid-for U.S. F16 jets in return for a verifiable cap on its suspected nuclear weapons programme. The deal would include Indian participation in multilateral talks on South Asian security.

The proposal drew a storm of political and media protest in India when newspapers reported U.S. and Indian officials apparently discussed it at a secret London meeting.

The nuclear controversy has clouded Mr. Rao's trip,

which was aimed at calling U.S. investor attention to the radical economic reforms he launched three years ago to sweep away decades of controls under a socialist style economy.

Diplomats say the reforms have made India one of the world's most attractive emerging markets and boosted its image far beyond what it sought for years through military size.

But its military strength — it is among the world's most powerful nations in conventional arms — is again raising world concern over India's relationship with Pakistan.

Tension over Kashmir — a third ruled by India — triggered two of their three wars, and tension is rising again over a separatist campaign India says Pakistan is fuelling. Pakistan denies the charge.

Indian Foreign Secretary Krishnan Srinivasan said Mr. Rao would use his five-day U.S. visit to repeat India's view that nuclear non-proliferation should be treated globally, not locally.

"Where we disagree is that, where the U.S. believes in the efficacy of the Non-Proliferation Treaty... We believe that particular problem can only be tackled by global obligations."

The issue raises heated, emotional debate in India, enormous political risk for Mr. Rao's Congress Party government, and appears to divide the Indian public.

A poll in the Indian capital just before Mr. Rao's departure for Washington found 84 per cent of respondents wanted India to be nuclear-armed.

Political analyst Asbis Nandy says Indians, after being told the atomic test gave India due world recognition, may not easily part with the nuclear option without substantial concessions from Beijing and Washington.

"For the Indian public to be pacified, there must be a flamboyant gesture from the United States and China," said Mr. Nandy, of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, a New Delhi think-tank.

Mr. Nandy speculated possible gestures could include China pulling its missiles far from India's borders.

Features

Arabs neutral in Yemen war, but south benefits

By Youssef Azmech
Reuters

DUBAI — Arab countries officially are neutral in Yemen's civil war but their pressure for a truce in effect favours southern forces resisting the northern president.

"They are putting the burden of compliance on President Ali Abdullah Saleh and he does not seem to like it," said one Arab diplomat in the Gulf.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been the most outspoken in criticising Yemeni leaders for resorting to violence to settle disagreements on how the unified country should be run after the 1990 merger between North and South Yemen.

He criticised Mr. Saleh, without mentioning him by name, when he said in an interview broadcast last week that a capture of the southern capital Aden would be tantamount to occupation.

Yemen's immediate Arab neighbours, who have in the past been accused by Sanaa media of favouring Mr. Saleh's southern arch-foe Ali Salim al-Beidh, have implicitly rejected Mr. Saleh's claim he is Yemen's only legitimate authority.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd on Sunday received Mr. Beidh's envoy Saleh Abu Bakr bin Hussain. Saudi official media said he had delivered a message from the Yemeni vice-president and referred to Mr. Hussain as the Yemeni oil minister.

Mr. Saleh had earlier sacked both men from their official positions and branded them as rebels.

Mr. Hussain has received the same official recognition in all the Gulf Arab states he has visited as well as Egypt and Syria.

"This is very important. Major Arab countries are telling Saleh they do not accept his version of events... that he must reach an accommodation with the south," the Arab diplomat said.

Mr. Saleh's envoys such as Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Basendawa have been received as courteously.

But Mr. Saleh remains unpopular among Gulf Arabs and in states like Syria and Egypt that joined the alliance to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war because he showed sympathy for Baghdad at the time.

Pro-Saleh commentators, among them Islamic militants who oppose southern Yemen's socialist leaders, have

also spoken of backing for Beidh among Gulf Arabs who, they say, fear a strong, united Yemen in the strategic southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula.

But diplomats and military experts in the Gulf see little evidence of foreign interference in the Yemen war so far.

Mr. Saleh reacted angrily when the Arab League called a special meeting to discuss the Yemen war shortly after full-scale battles erupted on May 4, saying it was a domestic affair.

Arab Gulf leaders are traditionally reticent in their official statements and those on Yemen so far have been confined largely to calls for ceasefire and reconciliation.

Official media reported United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan as calling for a truce when he received Mr. Basendawa on Sunday and urging Yemen's leaders to use dialogue and logic rather than force in settling their row.

But diplomats in the region said that Mr. Mubarak was reflecting a widely held Arab view when he said that if the north captured Aden, it would not mean a solution to the problem nor would war guarantee that Yemen would remain united.

"I am for peace and stability. We are for unity but using force will never lead to unity. On the contrary, it will spark off acts of revenge," Mr. Mubarak said in his radio interview published in the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram.

Entering Aden would mean occupation and the peoples would not look on it as unity, he said.

Most Arabs say the Yemen merger, hailed at the time as living proof that Arab unity was possible, should be maintained.

But a few voices are starting to argue that it may be better for the two Yemens to separate once again.

"It is better for the Yemens to reach the reality of divorce now rather than reaching it tomorrow or the day after... At least they would have souls," said Ahmad Al-Jarallah, a leading Kuwaiti journalist writing in Al-Sayassah.

Only Jordan has taken what seems to be a pro-north Yemen stand, with its official media referring to Mr. Saleh's government as the "legitimate" government to the southern leaders as "secessionist" forces.



"NATURAL KILLERS: Armed Jewish settlers stand at the entrance of Kriyat Arba settlement in Hebron where many fanatic immigrants from the U.S. live (AFP photo)

U.S. Vietnam vets bring hatred, war techniques to West Bank

By Marjorie Olster
Reuters

KFAR TAPUACH, West Bank — A U.S. Vietnam veteran, using tactics he learned in jungle warfare, once spread defoliant on a grove of olive trees Palestinian stone throwers used for cover in the occupied West Bank.

A Vietnam helicopter pilot, now firmly grounded in Jerusalem's Old City, accidentally shot up a unit of Israeli undercover soldiers in disguise whom he mistook for Arab attackers.

Almost 20 years after the United States ended its involvement in the Vietnam War, some veterans find themselves in the thick of Israeli-occupied territories.

Disgusted and disaffected, they left the United States to search for a new beginning in the Jewish state and found solace in religion.

They also found new conflicts — with Palestinians who regard them as foreign conquerors, and with an Israeli government which wants to trade land for peace. They talk about possible civil war if Israeli leaders uproot settlements.

"I am a natural killer," said Gedalia Becker, boasting about his tour as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam. The U.S. army tallied a body count for pilots after each mission, he said. His was 600.

In 1988, Mr. Becker lived in the West Bank settlement of Maale Amos. One night when he was driving near the settlement, Palestinians threw a petrol bomb at his car.

He jumped out, spotted some silhouettes about 60 metres away and, assuming they were the Palestinians who ambushed his car, opened fire with his pistol. The silhouettes turned out to be Israeli undercover soldiers disguised as Arabs.

Mr. Becker, trained as a sharpshooter, had hit three, badly wounding two of them.

"Afterwards the kids (in the unit) asked me all kinds of questions... They didn't realise a pistol could be that accurate," said Mr. Becker, 47. "I could have taught them a whole lot that would have helped their amish techniques."

Mr. Becker, his wife and eight children now live in Jerusalem's Old City. He devotes his life to study at a Jewish seminary.

About 100 Vietnam veterans live in Israel and the occupied territories, according to American-Israeli author Eric Lee, who wrote a book about them. He has located four in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

All four served in elite combat units in Vietnam. One, former Marine David Ramati, described them as

"action junkies" drawn to living on the edge.

Veteran Kuziel Meir was arrested in March 1990 with another American immigrant and charged with the murder of Aziza Salem Jaber, an Arab woman shot while driving in the West Bank settlement of Kriyat Arba next to Hebron where Mr. Meir lived.

Mr. Meir, who denied the killing, was jailed for 11 months on weapons charges. Police told the court they had found arms in his home including carbines of the type used to kill Mr. Jaber, ammunition crates and a bullet-making machine.

As a medical officer with the green berets, Mr. Meir said he served three tours of combat duty in Vietnam. "The biggest shock is when you came back, everybody made you out to be a baby-killer," he recalled.

"I got totally disgusted with American society. I packed up and came here. I was idealistic. I believed this was the only place a real Jew could live."

Mr. Meir immigrated to Israel in 1978 and became a rabbi.

"America is not our home. You can fight and you can die and you can bleed for America but you are still a hymie," he said, using a derogatory term for Jew.

Mr. Meir said he moved to the West Bank for ideological reasons — the belief that the land was given to Jews in the Bible.

In 1988 he settled in Kriyat Arba, one of the most militant settlements, where he raised goats and repaired the weapons of other settlers using knowledge he acquired in Vietnam.

He now lives in Kfar Tapuach, home to many activists of the outlawed anti-Arab Kahane Chai (Kahane

Lives) group, though he denies any link to the organisation.

Mr. Meir, his long hair dishevelled and his clothes scruffy, arranged books on metal shelves in a dusty library while he spoke fondly of his friend Baruch Goldstein, the Brooklyn-born settler from Kriyat Arba who massacred over 40 Muslim worshippers in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs last February.

Mr. Meir said he and other like-minded Jews would fight any land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians "even if it entails a war against the government."

Former Marine Ramati, sitting behind his desk in a cluttered office at the metal factory he manages near Hebron, said he moved to Kriyat Arba for religious reasons. "I am doing the best I can to fulfil biblical prophecies."

Arafat cancels Israeli laws

(Continued from page 1)

peace but officials were Tuesday quoted as saying Israel has dropped the demand.

An official at the prime minister's office, who requested anonymity, said Tuesday that Mr. Rabin "expects Arafat to give a public commitment to respect the terms of the autonomy accord... 'It doesn't matter to Mr. Rabin if this commitment is written or verbal, the important thing is that he shows his willingness to stick to the agreement,'" the official said.

"Mr. Arafat said shortly after the speech that by Jihad he had meant a peaceful crusade. Mr. Rabin, whose tour included the new Israeli civil administration offices and the length of a fence going up along the border between Israel and the Strip, was largely upbeat about the way the handover had gone.

"There were serious fears and I want to say that things were carried out in a far better way than I had feared," he said.

Asked if he trusted Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin told reporters: "It's not a question of belief or non-belief. We signed an agreement. I expect whoever signs an agreement to fulfil his commitments."

Talking tough, he said: "Israel certainly has the full means to ensure that violations will be corrected."

But the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas warned Mr. Arafat not to give in to Israeli "blackmail" to clamp down on the group's attacks on Jewish targets from Palestinian self-interest areas.

"If Arafat responds to Zionist pressure and blackmail to attain their demands of stopping the mujahideen (Muslim guerrillas) from resisting the occupation, that will get him closer to the red line of inter-Palestinian friction which

everyone is concerned not to cross," Ibrahim Ghosheh, official spokesman of Hamas told Reuters.

"The aim of all this Zionist pressure is to get the Palestinian authority and its tool the Palestinian police to control the Gaza Strip, to ensure that the Palestinians do not undertake any resistance to the occupation forces," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Responding to the cancelling of its laws in the occupied territories, an Israeli Foreign Minister spokesman said, "These claims by any Palestinian authorities have no grounds, because any legislation needs the approval of Israel."

Before Israel occupied the territories, Jordanian law was applied in the West Bank while Egypt enforced a separate set of laws in the Gaza Strip, the PLO plans to enact one law for both areas.

Gaza lawyer Freih Abu Mudeen, a member of the Palestinian Authority Council, said: "This order in effect cancels most Israeli military orders dealing with civilian life, and restores the situation to the days before the Israeli occupation."

"This is the first step towards consolidating our national authority on the ground in Gaza and Jericho," he added.

Israeli military orders, empowering the authorities to impose and collect taxes, issue permits and control other aspects of daily life, were viewed by Palestinians as serving Israeli interests.

In another development, PLO has appointed Morgan Stanley Asset Management (MSAM) to manage foreign aid for development and administration of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, an official statement said.

Scud attack kills

(Continued from page 1)

from Maareb (east of the capital Sanaa) towards Shabwa, but they will never reach the oil fields they are after," he said.

Mr. Beidh said that negotiations were underway with the Canadian oil company Canoxo on revenues, which were usually paid to the government in Sanaa.

Only about 5,000 barrels per day (BPD) produced in Shabwa, though it could yield substantially more.

Southern Yemen's main producing field Massila remained in southern hands, and British employees at its Ash-Shihir export terminal told Reuters correspondent Ashraf Fouad that it was pumping at a normal rate of 150,000 BPD.

Mr. Beidh said his troops were regrouping to repel northern soldiers advancing on his strongholds.

"I'm optimistic... I'm always optimistic," Mr. Al Beidh said in his first news conference since he declared the Southern Democratic Republic of Yemen on Saturday.

The former Marxist turned moderate ruler of the South's 2.4 million people was wearing a safari suit and appeared tired but in good spirits after three weeks of conflict with the conservative north.

He was confident his recent losses on the battlefield would soon be reversed. Mobilisation and what he termed popular eagerness to defend the infant state would tilt the balance.

"If there was some kind of confusion and defect (at the start) it is normal, because we were not mobilising our people for war," Mr. Beidh said.

Under pressure militarily, the south received a new blow when the United States decided at least for now against recognising the new state.

"The United States does not believe the critical issues which will shape the future of Yemen

should be decided in the heat of battle," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

"We will therefore not respond to the Al Beidh declaration" (of independence)."

The Russian foreign ministry said, Russia has asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia to try and "exert their influence" in the Yemeni conflict.

"Moscow is watching with anguish developments (in Yemen) and once again calls on the parties involved to stop the senseless bloodshed," ministry spokesman Grigori Karasin said during a press briefing.

Mr. Karasin's statement came as the UAE implied it recognised the breakaway state of south Yemen with its official media referring to Mr. Al Beidh as president.

But Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said it was too early for his country to grant recognition to the self-declared state of southern Yemen.

He also reiterated Egyptian appeals for a ceasefire in Yemen's three-week civil war.

"We will leave that for the time being," Mr. Musa said in reference to the state in the south announced.

Only Somaliland, the breakaway region of Somalia, has so far recognised the southern state.

Mr. Musa repeated Egyptian criticism of the continued fighting and the violation of a three-day ceasefire which started on Saturday but lasted just a few hours.

"We condemn the use of arms between brotherly Arabs," Mr. Musa said. "We can only support the feelings which call for Yemeni unity but unity cannot be maintained by military operations."

The northern Yemeni prosecutor-general issued an arrest warrant — likely to be served only when and if there is any surrender — for Mr. Beidh.

By Francois Raitberger
Reuters

BAYEUX, France — The tragedy of war and the elation of victory are heroic themes which will return to Normandy's skies and beaches as old soldiers and world leaders mark the 50th anniversary of the allied D-Day landing.

Tens of thousands of veterans and the leaders of 15 countries will gather on the beaches where more than 150,000 allied troops landed on June 6, 1944, hurrying through German defences to open the way to the liberation of Western Europe.

Fifty years on, propeller-driven fighters and old landing ships will mix with advanced weaponry as adversaries seek to transform Normandy into a fortress again — to ensure the safety of visiting world leaders.

Warships will patrol the coast, the French army will man anti-aircraft missile batteries and Mirage fighters will be on stand-by, prepared to scramble against any intruder.

Most roads will be closed along an 80-km stretch of coast from Ouistreham to the Cotentin peninsula, with 9,000 soldiers and 6,000 paramilitary gendarmes backing police to protect motorcades of leaders criss-crossing the area in a host of ceremonies honouring tens of thousands of soldiers who died in the operation codenamed Overlord.

The celebrations begin on June 4 in the British port of Portsmouth where U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower issued the final order to launch Overlord, prepared in total secrecy to trick the Germans into believing the allied landing would take place further north, where the channel is narrower.

On the night of June 5, 1944, British soldiers descended by parachute and in

Fifty years on, heroes return to Normandy

gliders to secure the strategic Pegasus Bridge at the eastern end of the invasion zone. U.S. paratroopers dropped behind German lines at the western end and bombers pounded the German Atlantic wall defences.

On that date 50 years later, some 1,000 British, Canadian, Polish, Australian and French paratroopers will descend on Ranville, near Pegasus Bridge, while some 600 American and French soldiers will jump above the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise to re-enact the events.

Thirty-seven U.S. veterans, now aged from 67 to 83, had to launch a verbal assault to convince French authorities wary of accidents that they be allowed to join the U.S.-French drop.

Also on June 5, Britain's Queen Elizabeth will sail for Normandy on the royal yacht Britannia in a flotilla of liners and warships from the nations that took part in the original landing.

Overlord involved thousands of ships, sailing from several British ports to rendezvous at night in the channel and head for the beaches — named Utah and Omaha in the U.S. sector and Gold, Juno and Sword in the Anglo-Canadian sector.

The dawn of June 6, 1944, saw German defenders pounded by big navy guns and awed by the biggest armada ever assembled, while allied attackers faced a lethal barrage of bullets.

At sunrise on the same

date this year, U.S. President Bill Clinton will drop a wreath into the sea from the aircraft carrier George Washington, and fly to Pointe Du Hoc, scene of one of D-Day's most heroic feats.

There, 220 U.S. rangers scaled a sheer cliff before dawn to seize powerful German artillery batteries commanding both Utah Beach and Omaha Beach.

Swept off their intended route by strong currents, U.S. troops at Omaha Beach ended up being pinned down by German fire and slaughtered in D-Day's bloodiest battle.

The site, marked by a simple monument to those for whom there was "no mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great," was chosen for the main anniversary ceremony.

All the visiting world leaders will gather to witness a symbolic landing of national flags and hear an address by French President Francois Mitterrand.

On the hill above, at the U.S. cemetery, flags now flutter in the sea breeze over a manicured lawn and rows of white crosses marking the graves of 9,386 American soldiers.

By the night of June 6, allied forces were ensconced on the beaches, but it took them more than a month to beat German counter-offensives and take Caen, just 14 km from the sea. It took another month to trap German forces in the Falaise

pocket to open the route towards Paris and, less than a year later, Berlin.

Bearing witness to the ferocity of the battle of Normandy, more than 58,000 Germans, 19,000 Britons, 13,000 Americans and 5,000 Canadians are buried in the region's military cemeteries. An estimated 15,000 civilians were also killed.

The anniversary has captured the imagination of people and spurred a host of events besides the celebrations sponsored by the French government.

Towns and villages grateful for their liberation and eager to secure a slice of the tourist invasion are sponsoring countless concerts, exhibitions, tournaments and parties for veterans.

Hotel rooms are booked solid throughout the region. Visitors will be able to buy commemorative flags, maps, books and T-shirts, not to mention D-Day wine and camembert du Debarquement (landing).

Tour operators are offering visits to the beaches in vintage jeeps and dakota planes. Collectors will exhibit just about anything military that flew, rolled or sailed at the time.

The official celebrations will end at sunset on June 6 with fireworks and high-tech pageantry involving a specially constructed giant pyramid built in a field near Caen.

In a symbol of reconciliation, the German flag flies alongside allied flags outside Caen's six-year-old Peace Memorial Museum. But German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has not been invited to the celebrations despite opinion polls showing that most French people favoured German participation.

German veterans will hold a separate, private gathering at the biggest German war cemetery in La Cambe, a few km inland from Omaha Beach.

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Coffee, cocoa prices explode to new highs

LONDON (R) — Coffee and cocoa prices soared Tuesday to their highest since the late 1980s as speculators continued to throw money into commodity markets.

The huge movers are the speculators and the funds," one analyst said.

There were also fresh warnings that when the markets do topple it could be a rout.

By the lunchtime close in London, coffee for delivery in July was worth \$149 more at \$2,445, the highest in nearly 7 1/2 years.

Coffee prices have been rising relentlessly in recent weeks, initially prompted by concerns over a small world crop caused by bad weather.

Low prices of recent years have also contributed to lower crops by making it uneconomic for many farmers to look after their trees.

But traders say speculators, convinced that consumers will be ready to pay much more for raw materials as the industrial economic pull out of recession, have effectively taken over the markets.

As prices steam up, so roasters and other users are forced to buy to protect their own positions.

Traders were reluctant to say how far prices might go next.

"Each time we have small setbacks, buyers come back in," one said.

The jump in coffee prices spilled over into cocoa which hit 6 1/2 year highs.

Cocoa has largely escaped the recent commodity price boom, having made its leap in December on reports of poor crops.

But on Tuesday morning many in the trade were caught out as cocoa soared on fund buying by \$80 to £1,078 a tonne for delivery in July, the first time it had been that high since early 1988.

Speculative funds, many in the United States, have for weeks been on a commodity buying spree, snapping up anything from copper to soybeans.

Analysts are increasingly worried that if one or two of them decide to sell there will be no buyers and the markets will collapse.

Copper bulls rampant, prices at 16-month highs

LONDON (R) — Copper prices hit 16-month highs on Tuesday, buoyed by a fresh wave of speculative fever and trades said more increases were in store.

"It is best not to stand in the way of a runaway train," said a dealer on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

Rising copper prices are part of a general euphoria sweeping commodity markets as investors switch money from shaky bonds and equities.

They bring windfall profits for producers like Chile, Peru and Zambia, but pain for consumers, though traders say the impact on inflation so far is muted.

Copper hit a high of \$2,335 a tonne on Tuesday, up 22 per cent in the last month and 45 per cent from its low last year.

A strong U.S. economy and signs of revival in Europe have sparked more buying of copper and a fall in stocks overhanging the market.

Fears of drought this summer in U.S. grain growing areas have spurred a rush into Chicago futures markets and this fuelled a rise in the Commodity Research Bureau index, a widely-watched inflation barometer, to 3 1/2 year highs on Monday.

But traders said it could all end in tears. "It could be a nightmare. These boys (funds) are too big for these markets," said one trader.

Commodity markets are small compared to the world's bond, equity and foreign exchange markets which means hedge funds and others investment pools, wielding billions of

dollars of private money, can whip them around almost at mercy.

"This is a pure speculative move, we haven't seen any news for some time now. But you can't buck it, and go short until the funds really decide to take profits," a dealer said.

Stocks of copper, widely used in construction, electrical and communications industries, have fallen without interruption since March, and there are few signs that higher prices are starting to deter consumption.

Traders recall that copper was priced at \$2,400 a tonne only last year when the world was still mired in recession.

Others said copper producers may be looking to sell at current prices which are well above mining costs.

African cocoa producers attack EU chocolate plan

BRUSSELS (R) — African cocoa producers said Tuesday European Commission plans to allow EU member states to use cocoa substitutes in chocolate would reduce demand for cocoa beans by up to 200,000 tonnes, or 10 per cent, a year.

The European Union (EU) is the world's biggest cocoa consumer, accounting for 40 per cent of the world market, and if it restricted cocoa use the effect could be disastrous. Prices are already at the lowest levels since the early 1970s.

"Cocoa is the lifeblood of the Ghanaian economy," Sam Appah, managing director of the Cocoa Marketing Company (Ghana) Ltd., told a news conference during a European lobbying tour covering Britain, Denmark, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Ghana is the world's second biggest cocoa producer after the Ivory Coast and cocoa accounts for half the west African

cocoa country's export earnings as well as providing a living for one third of the population of around 15 million people.

"It's not just an economic issue but life and death for the Cameroon," added Hope Ehai, head of Cameroon's National Cocoa and Coffee Board, noting it supported 25 per cent of the population.

Britain, Ireland and Denmark already allow use of the much cheaper vegetable fats obtained from palm oil, rapeseed and other vegetable oils, and Portugal is to join them soon.

Since the completion of the EU's single market in January 1993, they can sell their cheaper chocolate throughout the 12 member states and this has led to complaints from German and other producers.

"A small minority of countries is going to change the rules for the whole chocolate market with disastrous effects for producers," said Marc

Bontemps of Oxfam-Worldshops, which organised the news conference.

Mr. Bontemps said if the EU adopted the change, the United States and other countries could follow.

"It would be sweet for the profits of chocolate manufacturers but bitter for cocoa producers," he said.

The African cocoa leaders later saw a senior aide of EU Consumer Affairs Commissioner Christiane Scrivener to press the case against the use of non-cocoa fat.

The European Commission denied it planned to change the rules for making chocolate.

"It has no intention of proposing new rules," a spokesman said. "But it does plan to consolidate the existing (1973 chocolate) directive to take account of new developments."

He was referring mainly to the creation of a single market.

Agreement reached to resume U.S.-Japan trade talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States and Japan have agreed to resume bilateral trade negotiations after a three-month deadlock, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor announced Tuesday.

"I am pleased to announce a resumption of the framework negotiations between the U.S. and Japan," Mr. Kantor said after five days of marathon talks here to try to get the negotiations between the two trading giants back on track.

Mr. Kantor said that working groups would resume negotiations Tuesday in the sectors covered under last July's framework agreement — auto-

mobiles and auto parts, insurance and government procurement.

He also said he had spoken with Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa and that the two men might meet in Paris on the sidelines of an OECD meeting in 10 days' time.

Mr. Kantor said that the Japanese side had reiterated its commitment under the framework accord to continue to promote demand-led growth and produce a highly significant decrease in its current account surplus.

He denied that the accord marked a weakening of the U.S. insistence on clear targets

to measure progress in opening Japan's markets, and said that in fact the framework had been strengthened.

He said the two sides had gone further than the framework agreement in agreeing "to apply both qualitative and quantitative" measures of progress whereas the framework had an either/or approach.

"This is a firm commitment to a results-oriented agreement, he stressed.

Mr. Kantor said that the two sides had agreed on a results-oriented approach for priority sectors.

"It is now clear and mutually

Morocco predicts growth of 11% in '94

CASABLANCA (R) — The authoritative Moroccan think-tank Centre Marocain de Conjoncture (CMC) forecasts record growth of 11 per cent in 1994 after two bad years caused by serious droughts.

"Morocco will register this year the highest growth since a quarter century," Habib El Malki, head of the Casablanca-based CMC told Reuters.

"The positive indicators are that with the prospect of a record harvest this year we can forecast a growth of 11 per cent," he added.

Droughts were responsible for about minus three per cent growth in 1992 and zero growth in 1993. Plentiful winter rains raised hopes of good harvests this year.

"The cereal harvest will be exceptionally good and reach a record of 8.6 million tonnes this summer," the agriculture ministry said last week.

In 1993, the country imported nearly three million tonnes of cereals costing \$1 billion.

The added-value of the agriculture sector is expected to boost the country's economic activity, the CMC said.

"The government's (1994) objectives are to keep the budget deficit to 1.5 per cent of GDP, the current account deficit to 2.1 per cent of GDP and an inflation rate of four per cent," the finance ministry said in a recent report.

Inflation was 5.2 per cent last year.

The CMC expects an average inflation rate of 6.8 per cent in 1994.

CMC analysts expect a budget deficit of seven billion dirhams (\$746 million) by the end of the year which represents 2.4 per cent of GDP.

The centre calls for new measures to reduce the budget deficit and said the current privatisation programme would bring to the state cash-box an estimated 2.5 billion dirhams (\$266 million).

Don't drive in Portugal, but get sick in Greece

BRUSSELS (R) — Where is the best place in Europe to have a nervous breakdown?

Which country is the most dangerous to drive in?

Where are you most likely to find a dentist? or a doctor?

The answers to these and other Euro-esoterica are contained in a new booklet published Tuesday by Eurostat, the Luxembourg-based statistical office of the 12-nation European Union (EU).

Designed to "inform the electorate" in the run-up to next month's European Parliament elections, the booklet offers an insight into the diversity of problems facing EC countries.

Unemployment, for example, ranges from just 2.6 per cent in tiny Luxembourg to a whopping 21.5 per cent in Spain.

For Spaniards under 25, the rate is 37.5 per cent, more than

one in three, while for young Germans it is only 4.9 per cent.

Similarly, there is a wide disparity in wealth, ranging from Denmark, where gross national product is 21,300 European currency units (\$24,900) per person to Greece where it is just 500 European Currency Units (\$560).

But beyond the stark economic facts, Eurostat's report also offers somewhat more bizarre comparisons.

Ireland for example, would appear to be the best place for a nervous breakdown, given that it has more psychiatric beds per thousand inhabitants — 2.7 — than anywhere else. Italy has the fewest with 0.5 per 1,000 people.

As for driving, keep your seatbelt tight in Portugal where there were 2.68 road deaths per 10,000 inhabitants in 1991 compared with 0.92 in the Netherlands.

Portugal and Belgium registered the most accidents with personal injury — 17.64 per 1,000 cars — than anywhere else in the union.

Greece, meanwhile, might arguably be the best place to get sick, with the most doctors — 4.3 per thousand inhabitants — and dentists — about one per thousand.

Eurostat offers no data on how EU citizens view the trading bloc but does give one hint at how important its only democratic exercise is to those entitled to participate.

Voter turnout in the last European Parliament elections was 58 per cent throughout the 12 nations, Eurostat said.

Participation in 1989 ranged from a high of 90.7 per cent in Belgium, where it is mandatory to vote, to a low of 36.2 per cent in Britain, where it is not.

Romanian miners threaten new raid on Bucharest

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian miners angered by plunging living standards have threatened to descend on Bucharest to push the government to meet their labour demands, a union leader said Tuesday.

"Hundreds of thousands of miners plan to come to Bucharest as a last-ditch attempt to force the government into action," Marin Condescu, leader of the Miners Trade Unions Confederation, told Reuters.

Coalminers have stormed Bucharest during several violent raids over the past four years. At least nine people have been killed and hundreds wounded in the miner-led violence.

Mr. Condescu said his unions claim more than 132,000 people employed in coal and non-ferrous mines across Romania — or more than half the country's 250,000-strong mining workforce.

Romanian miners, who fear redundancies as the country plans to restructure its economy as part of post-communist free-market reforms, seek social guarantees from the government, including job retraining schemes.

"We fear the government has no clear plan on how to restructure the mining sector, let alone the entire economy," Mr. Condescu said.

"We oppose any pit closures as long as there is no labour alternative, no social protection for the miners," he added.

Miners would hold a two-day congress in the western Jiu Valley mining town of Petrosani this weekend to decide on a

more muscled strategy to wrest guarantees from the government.

Petrosani, 300 kilometres northwest of Bucharest, is home ground to Miron Cosma, leader of the Kin Valley coalminers who have been prominent in miners' raids on the capital.

"Unfortunately, miners are still the only force which the authorities seem to reckon with," Mr. Condescu said.

At the two-day conference due to start Saturday, Romanian miners' unions would join ranks for the first time since the 1989 collapse of communist rule.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This isn't a good day to try to contact persons who so far this week have proven difficult to get in contact with. Try to complete all of the mundane tasks that you need to get out of the way.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It would be wise to permit a good friend to help you solve a personal problem. Don't spend more money now than you can afford to lose.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Study your position in life and know if it would be wise to make any changes. Any public duties should be handled cleverly by you today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Go after personal goals in a positive fashion and you gain them easily now. Sidestep one who wants to slow up your progress toward a goal.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Confer with an expert who can help you gain a personal aim. Relax at home tonight and keep out of trouble.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Listening and following ideas of associates brings good results now. Take the right steps to improve your health and be productive.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Know what your greatest aims are and go after them in a positive manner. Don't waste time on trivial matters which are non productive.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You have fine ideas which should be put in operation without delay. Come to a better understanding with a close tie to you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The mood at home could be changing rapidly, so be sure that you at least are steadfast. Be careful of strange who want to barm you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A better understanding about regular routines with associates can be reached now. Steer clear of trouble to avoid any problem situations.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Put more zip into your regular activities and accomplish a great deal. Don't take your mate so much for granted and show more affection.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Go after your aims in a more sure and up-to-date way and gain them. Planning recreational activities for the future is wise.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Study new systems that will help you advance in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with reputation or your money.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



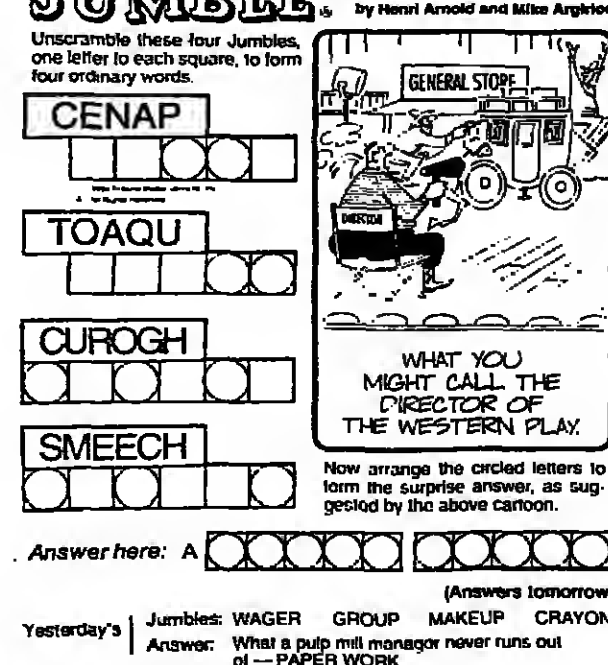
Mutt'n'Jeff



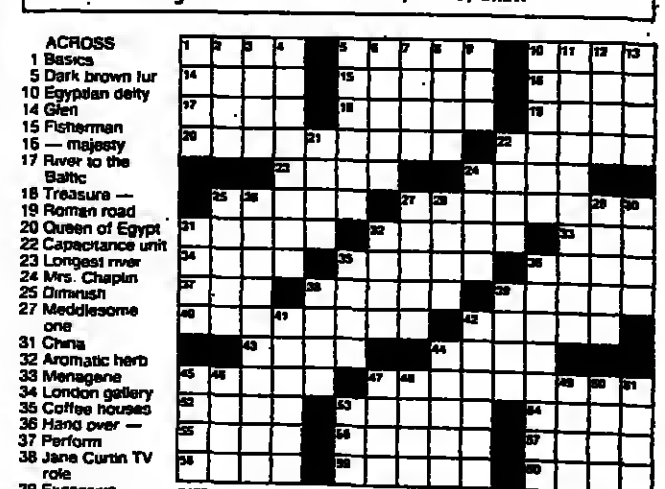
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chew



Saturday's Puzzle Solvers



44-4 is 125



Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Resources Minister Hisham Nazer (left) chats with Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata (right) at the Diet building in Tokyo Tuesday. Minister Nazer is on a week-long visit to Japan to talk with Japanese leaders. At centre is an unidentified interpreter (AFP photo)

Gulf Air sees six per cent growth in next five years

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Air operations grew by an average 15 per cent annually in the past three years and a further six per cent is projected in the next five years, its chairman was quoted as saying.

Salim Al Siyyabi made the comments to United Arab Emirates (UAE) reporters aboard a new Airbus A-340, which Gulf Air has just received as the first of six long-range A-340s it ordered last year. Another six Airbus A-320 will be delivered in the next five years, raising its Airbus fleet to 24.

Mr. Siyyabi, whose comments were published in the UAE semi official daily Al Itihad, said Gulf Air was among the fastest growing airlines in the Middle East, where traffic grew by five per cent.

"Gulf Air has chalked out a plan which projects a growth of six per cent annually in the next five years. This means Gulf Air will continue to make profits during this period," he said.

Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, has embarked on a multi-billion-dollar expansion plan to face growing business and competition from local and foreign carriers as well as airlines which have recently emerged, especially in Oman and Qatar.

The plans cover modernisation of services, recruitment of more staff, expansion of flight destinations and boosting of its fleet, which also includes 18 Boeings and a few ageing Tristars.

Mr. Siyyabi said Gulf Air had made net profits of between \$40 million and \$50 million a year over the past three years. Turnover exceeded \$1 billion in 1993 and is expected to remain high in 1994, he added.

"Gulf Air will chalk out another expansion plan after 1997. There will be an assessment of options regarding the fleet and services," he said.

Concerning financing of the six Airbus A-320s, the company will invite international financing institutions for securing the funds.

He said Gulf Air was conducting a study on privatisation, which has been on the cards for several years.

Experts said the privatisation, which would be open only to citizens from owning countries, was prompted by growing competition, and expectations of rapid growth in air traffic in the Middle East.

The Kuwaiti-based Gulf Investment Corporation, a joint investment venture owned by six regional governments, is carrying out the privatisation study, according to its vice president Hisham Razzuqi.

"The successful planning and implementation of the Gulf Air privatisation will go a long way in encouraging the GCC states to accelerate the privatisation programmes currently under review in the region," he said.

Beirut hopes for offshore oil drilling in a year

Oilless Lebanon may export refined products

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon, which has no oil reserves of its own, may opt to expand the capacity of its Tripoli refinery beyond domestic needs to start exporting refined products, Oil Minister Assad Rizk said.

The option emerged in talks with foreign oil companies on a proposed joint venture to rehabilitate, expand and operate the war-damaged plant, Mr. Rizk told Reuters.

The state-owned refinery had a 20,000 barrels per day (b/d) capacity before the 1975-91 civil war but is now inoperative.

Mr. Rizk has been seeking a foreign partner to restore it and raise capacity to 50,000 b/d out of Lebanon's requirement of 80,000 b/d of refined products.

But Mr. Rizk said in an interview Lebanon had the facilities to become an exporter, and some companies interested in the project wanted to raise the refinery's capacity to 100,000 b/d to make it feasible.

Mr. Rizk believed he could overcome parliamentary opposition to the project despite last week's rejection by two parliamentary committees of a government bill for semi-privatisation of oil refineries.

He said he told one panel a joint venture with a foreign company was the only way to revive the refinery because the personnel who ran it before the war were reaching retirement age.

With Lebanon's existing terminals, tank farms and incoming pipelines, it would be stupid not to go ahead with the project, Mr. Rizk told the panel.

"No European country has such facilities," he explained. "This is the future, and I am convinced that with these facilities we can even enlarge our refineries and export refined products, especially if we can get Arabian Light from the Saudi Arabian pipeline."

Lebanon is linked to pipelines from Syria and Iraq and the Trans Arabia Pipeline (Tapline), although they are not operating.

Asked if he had issued tenders for the project, Mr. Rizk said it was difficult to do so because each oil company or group of companies had its own conditions and terms.

"Some want just to keep the refinery at 50,000 b/d. Others would like to go to 100,000 b/d to be feasible and to be interesting for them perhaps to export refined products," he said.

But Lebanon was unable to take strategic decisions by itself because it no longer had the skilled oil industry personnel, Mr. Rizk added.

Last Friday he signed a contract with Beicip Franlab, a state-owned French company, for a six-month study on planning oil refining in Lebanon that would give the government the regional information it needed to formulate a policy.

Mr. Rizk said delay in finding a partner for the Tripoli project was due to the need for a joint venture — which meant semi-privatisation of the plant and therefore required parliamentary approval.

The two committees rejected an omnibus bill on joint ventures to run Lebanon's posts, electrical power stations, public transport, railway and refineries complaining that it gave no details of the projects or proposed terms.

Mr. Rizk said he agreed to send parliament a bill on semi-privatisation of refineries only that would give all the information needed.

He said the contract would be worth at least \$130 million and last a maximum 15 years, the government would retain

20 per cent of capital and production would be at least 50,000 b/d.

"They (parliament) are right. The government asked for a blank cheque for everything," Mr. Rizk said. "I told them I would prepare a very detailed project if they promised to study it and take very few weeks to approve it."

"They agreed... Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri told me: 'Yes, go and prepare this.' I think I convinced them that the only way to rehabilitate the refinery is semi-privatisation," he said.

Mr. Rizk also said that Lebanon hopes its first offshore drilling for oil will start off its northern coast in a year.

Two U.S. oil companies, Pecten and Arco, have bought the results of a seismic survey carried out last year off the northern port of Tripoli, he told Reuters.

Two more companies, one U.S. and one Dutch, were expected to buy it this week, Mr. Rizk added.

He said he realised oil companies would be cautious about entering the venture because of low world oil prices, political uncertainty in the Middle East and the financial risk involved.

Any company which signed a contract would have a bear the full risk, Mr. Rizk added. "If they drill and find nothing, in our tender we don't pay anything."

But he said: "The structures we have found (off Tripoli) are very interesting because they are similar to those in Syria where oil has been found."

Mr. Rizk expected the companies to take six months to decide whether to bid. The winning company would then need six months to prepare to bring up a platform and start drilling.

"This is why I said it should take one year to start drilling," Mr. Rizk said.

He said an offer by Schlumberger subsidiary Geoco-Prakla to do an onshore seismic survey of the whole of Lebanon free of charge depended on the interest of oil companies in buying the results.

"It's very expensive and they are not going to start doing this onshore survey if they are not sure of selling the package to companies," Mr. Rizk said.

Lebanon currently imports all its oil requirements equivalent to 80,000 b/d of refined products.

Mandela seeks to expand S. Africa's trade links

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa will soon begin trade talks with the European Union, the United States and southern African neighbours and will look at other ways of expanding trade links, President Nelson Mandela said Tuesday.

He told parliament in his first state-of-the-nation address the negotiations would aim "to provide a stable and mutually beneficial framework for our international economic relations."

"We will also be looking very closely at the question of enhancing South-South cooperation in general as part of the effort to expand our economic links with the rest of the world," he stressed.

Mr. Mandela said his government of national unity would "address all other matters that relate (to) the creation of an attractive investment climate for both domestic and foreign investors."

The government, he added, had already started "to address the important question of our trade policy, guided by our GATT commitments and the determination systematically to open the economy to global competition in a carefully managed process."

South Africa is looking at formal links with the European Union, its biggest trading area. The United States is also seeking to expand trade ties following

the end of apartheid rule and the lifting of sanctions.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration as South Africa's first black president on May 10, has urged American companies to move in now.

On southern African links, Mr. Mandela specifically mentioned the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

SACU groups South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia in a customs union whose terms Pretoria wants to review. Revue from SACU contributes substantially to the budgets of South

Africa's partners in the union.

South Africa is considering membership in SADC, which groups Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania.

It attended its first formal SADC meeting in Lesotho last week.

Meanwhile, the African National Congress said that the estimated cost of President Mandela's ambitious plan to wipe out apartheid's backlogs has more than doubled.

Jay Naidoo, minister without portfolio and author of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), told The Star newspaper that the plan will cost \$89-90 billion and

(\$21-\$24 billion) over five years.

The ANC, which based its campaign for the April 26-29 first all-race election on the promise of the RDP, had originally said the plan would cost \$39 billion and (\$10.6 billion).

The RDP aims to create 2.5 million jobs, build one million houses and electrify another 2.5 million, provide 10 years of free education to all and redistribute 30 per cent of all farmland to blacks.

The ballooning of the estimated cost followed studies by the ANC's National Institute for Economic Policy, which is headed by Max Sisulu, an ANC parliamentarian.

South Africa is looking at formal links with the European Union, its biggest trading area. The United States is also seeking to expand trade ties following

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Intercurrency Interest Rates

Date: 19/5/1994

Currency	1 MTR	3 MTRS	6 MTRS	12 MTRS
U.S. Dollar	4.1300	4.3800	4.6000	5.2500
Sterling Pound	4.3100	4.9400	5.1300	5.5600
Deutsche Mark	5.0000	4.8100	4.7500	4.7500
Swiss Franc	3.8100	3.7500	3.7500	3.7500
French Franc	5.4400	5.2500	5.2500	5.2500
Japanese Yen	1.8100	1.9400	2.0000	2.1900
European Currency Unit	5.6600	5.5600	5.5000	5.5600

Interbank bid rates for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 19/5/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.4938	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0525	1.0578
Deutsche Mark	0.4810	0.4231
Swiss Franc	0.4947	0.4972
French Franc	0.1231	0.1237
Japanese Yen*	0.6732	0.6766
Dutch Guilder	0.3751	0.3770
Swedish Krona	0.0441	0.0443
Italian Lira*	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0441	0.0443

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 19/5/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.040455	0.042965
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1867
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3210	2.3650
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1905
Egyptian Pound	0.2075	0.2080
Omani Riyal	1.7930	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.	
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3762/72
Canadian dollar	1.6475/85
Deutsche marks	1.8488/98
Swiss francs	1.4083/93
French francs	33.91/95
Italian lire	5.6370/20
Japanese yen	1590.01/5
Spanish pesetas	104.24/4
Swedish crowns	7.7025/25
Norwegian crowns	7.1380/30
One sterling	6.4500/50
One ounce of gold	\$1,305/60

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Fighting flares as France calls for new Bosnia talks

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb and Muslim forces clashed in northern Bosnia as rival faction leaders gathered for talks in France Tuesday aimed at ending the two-year-old war in the former Yugoslav republic.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the negotiations would determine whether the warring parties were ready to make peace and threatened to pull out French peacekeepers from former Yugoslavia if they were not.

"If the parties do not want to make peace, the peace which we are proposing, then our soldiers have no further role on the ground," Mr. Juppe told reporters in Paris.

With a contingent of 6,800, France is the biggest contributor to the 34,000-strong United Nations Protection Force.

The French government has already indicated it is considering cutting its force down to around 5,000, partly because of troop rotation and partly because of its frustration at lack of progress towards peace.

Mr. Juppe said the meeting in Talloires in eastern France Wednesday would shed light on whether the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government now in alliance with the Croats were really sincere about peace.

Without naming him, he expressed concern at statements by Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic in Paris Monday that the Bosnians wanted to fight to regain territory

taken by the Serbs rather than accept an unjust carve-up of his country.

Mr. Izetbegovic Monday dismissed as "unacceptable" a plan to award 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslims and Croats and 49 per cent to the Serbs.

This formula had been proposed by the international contact group of officials from major Western powers and Russia, who will be hosting Wednesday's talks.

The Bosnian Serbs announced that Momcilo Krajisnik, the hardline parliamentary speaker, and Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha had left for France to attend the talks.

In Sarajevo, officials said the Bosnian delegation would include Prime Minister Haris Siljdzic and Vice-President Ejup Ganic.

Bosnian Croat leader Kresimir Zubak would also attend the closed-door session.

As preparations for the talks got underway, the United Nations reported fighting in northern Bosnia over the past 24 hours after a Muslim-led army attack on Serb positions.

"There's heavy fighting, going on there, judging by the amount of ammunition they're using," U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Dacre Holloway told Reuters.

The Muslim-dominated Bosnian army in Tesanj was attacking Serb positions in an apparent attempt to advance to a road west of the northern Bosnian town. "It looks they might be trying to push towards the road," Maj. Holloway said.

The U.N. reported significant shelling in the area with 12 rounds a minute during one half-hour period.

He said Muslim forces shelled Serb-held Brcko in northern Bosnia Monday evening.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said six people were wounded, one seriously. Muslim controlled Sarajevo Radio said three civilians were killed and about 10 wounded in the Brcko area Monday evening as a result of Serb shelling.

In France, U.N. chief Boutros Ghali said ending an arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims could worsen the conflict in the region.

"There is a danger: If you lift the embargo, what about the countries that want to aid Serbia?" He told the newspaper Ouest-France. "It's not as simple one imagines."

His comments coincided with a campaign by Bosnia's Muslim-led government to end the embargo. It argues that it has tied its hands in the war in Bosnia.

Mr. Izetbegovic was in France Monday to lobby French leaders on the issue, but the French government remains opposed to any lifting of

the arms blockade. Meanwhile, as France talked of pulling forces out, New Zealand announced it was sending 250 troops to serve alongside a British peacekeeping battalion in Bosnia.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger said his government would dispatch a reinforced infantry company to serve alongside the British battalion.

Mr. Bolger, stressing Wellington's duties as a founder of the United Nations and current Security Council member, brushed off suggestions Bosnia was too distant and too dangerous.

"There is not and cannot be any moral justification for saying 'if it's close to New Zealand we're interested, if it's far away, count us out,'" he told parliament.

In a later television interview, Mr. Bolger added: "It would be quite wrong for New Zealand to say we only go where it's easy, but others can go where it's tough."

An opinion poll revealed Tuesday that some 68 per cent of French people would favour French military intervention on behalf of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, but only in the framework of a joint U.S.-European operation.

Were France to take such an initiative on its own, 77 per cent of people would oppose it, according to a survey by the polling institute IFOP for publication in Wednesday's *Globe Hebdo* magazine.



A Catholic priest conducts graveside services for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at Arlington National Cemetery May 23 (AFP photo)

Jackie, JFK reunited at Arlington

WASHINGTON (R) — The eternal flame now flickers over the graves of both John F. Kennedy and his widow, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

On a sunny hillside at Arlington National Cemetery, to the reading of scripture and chirping of birds, Jackie was reunited with her husband 31 years after she left the eternal flame honouring his memory.

Her burial Monday was the final chapter of the Camelot legacy, played out before members of a larger-than-life family whose great wealth and power never shielded them from relentless tragedy.

Here was her brother-in-law, Senator Edward Kennedy, standing over the graves of John and Robert, two brothers lost to assassins' bullets.

And there was John Kennedy Jr reading scripture of the second coming, grown up now from the young John-John bravely saluting his father's wagon-borne casket as it rolled by on the way to Arlington in 1963.

He and his sister, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, knelt and kissed their mother's coffin after the graveside service. John Jr's hand lingered on his father's headstone as well.

"Whether she was soothing a nation grieving for a former president, or raising children with the care and the privacy they deserve, or simply being a good friend, she always seemed to do the right thing in the right way," President Clinton said in a eulogy.

"May the flame she lit so long ago burn ever brighter here and always brighter in our hearts. God bless you friend, and farewell," said Mr. Clinton, who was joined by his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Onassis died last Thursday of cancer of the lymph system. She was 64.

"Jackie was too young to be a widow in 1963, and too young to die now," said Edward Kennedy.

Her death has prompted yet another look by America at the legend of Camelot, from the photogenic couple's royal-like reign at the White House, to Jackie, wearing a blood-stained outfit on the flight from Dallas to Washington accom-

panying her husband's body. She was actually a widow twice. Her second husband, Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis died in 1975, leaving her a vast fortune. A worldwide symbol of jet-set glamour, she summed up the essence of elegance, grace and style in one word recognisable to millions — Jackie.

Her coffin was carried in the cargo hold of a USAIR Boeing 737 that flew the family from a New York City funeral, where she was remembered by readings of some of her favourite books. She had been a New York book editor in recent years.

Senator Kennedy was reminded, as was most of America, of "those four endless days" in November 1963 when the 35th president was slain, his killer caught and shot to death and his funeral led by a grieving Jackie.

"She held us together as a family and a country. In large part because of her, we could grieve and then go on. She lifted us up, and in the doubt and darkness she gave her fellow citizens back their pride as Americans. She was then 34 years old," he said in a private funeral service at the St Ignace Loyola Roman Catholic Church in New York.



Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg kneels at the foot of her mother's casket as her brother John Kennedy Jr (left) looks on during graveside ceremonies for former U.S. first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Onassis was buried next to her first husband U.S. President John Kennedy at Arlington Cemetery in Washington (AFP photo)

China plans 'women's island' tourist resort

BEIJING (R) — The special economic zone of Zhuhai in southern China is setting up a "women's island" to attract female travellers, an official newspaper said.

The island, just off Zhuhai near the Portuguese enclave of Macau, will be "a paradise especially for women", the *Economic Evening News* of Jiangxi province said in an edition sent in Beijing Tuesday.

"Women's Tourist Island will reflect all of the special characteristics of women," the newspaper said. "It will feature women's records, women's entertainments, women's mysteries and fables coming to earth," the paper said, adding that it would also offer a holiday village and a duty-free store.

"Tourism officials say the idea of a women's island can be implemented and will bring in visitors because data shows that women are far more likely to be tourists than men," the newspaper said.

It added Zhuhai hoped to have the resort completed by 1995 when China will host a world women's conference.

Thieves use storm drain to tunnel into Thai bank

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thieves crawled through a 500-metre long storm drain and tunneled their way into a Thai bank over the weekend, making off with nearly \$100,000 in cash, news reports said Tuesday.

The storm drain connected with a 20-metre long, 22-centimetre (nine-inch) wide sewer that led to a branch of the Thai Military Bank, the reports said. After enlarging the sewer, the thieves then punched through the 15-centimetre concrete floor of the bank here in the Thai capital. Once inside the bank they forced their way into the vault. Police found shovels, gloves, chisels, crowbars, a hammer, a circular grinding stone, dead batteries, empty plastic bottles and bags of bread in the tunnel, they said.

Missing from the vault were 11 sacks containing 2,482,700 baht (\$99,300) and four small sacks of change. The bank was unguarded over the weekend and had no security devices. It previously was an auto parts store. Police believe at least two people were involved in the robbery, one of whom had inside knowledge of the bank, and estimate it may have taken them a week to tunnel into the building, the reports said.

Chinese agency announces Cannes award for Zhang

BEIJING (AFP) — China's Xinhua News Agency announced briefly Tuesday the two prizes won by Zhang Yimou's film *To Live* at the Cannes Film Festival. But it made no commentary on the awards and radio, and television remained silent.

The movie shared the Grand Jury's award with Russian Nikita Mikhalkov's *Burnt By The Sun* and its star Ge You won best actor award. Ministry for Film and Television officials said they had no comment. The Chinese authorities were angered because *To Live* was shown without being approved by the official censor. Zhang, 43, did not attend the festival because his film had not received a censor's visa. Last year Beijing was embarrassed because the Golden Palm Award at Cannes was won by Chen Kaige's *Farwell To My Concubine* which was unfavourable to Communist China. *To Live*, co-produced with Taiwan money, tells the story of a Chinese family from the 1940s through the Cultural Revolution and does not present the glorious image of Communist China the authorities prefer. Zhang has had several movies censored by the authorities in the past. But last year he was awarded China's two highest awards for his movie *The Story Of Qiu Jiu*.

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On Friday, the agency rejected a North Korean proposal to keep fuel rods from the controversial nuclear reactor in a "safe place under seal" ahead of resumed talks on the issue, saying it would inhibit verification that no nuclear material had been diverted for military use.

South Korea's top science official said in an article published Tuesday that North Korea does not appear to have the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

In an article in the journal *Science and Technology*, Minister of Science and Technology Kim Si-Joong questioned Western analyses that the North is close to making atomic bombs.

"It is questionable whether North Korea's technology is up to the level of developing nuclear weapons, including atomic bombs," Mr. Kim said.

Mr. Kim said the assessment reflects his personal view and does not represent the official government position. But President Kim Young-Sam and other top Seoul officials also have expressed doubts about the North's ability to develop weapons.

The minister said, however, that the north is believed to have been extracting plutonium, which can be used to make nuclear arms, since 1985.

Vietnamese jailed in motorcycle racing cases

HANOI (R) — A Hanoi court has handed down stiff jail terms to two young hikers for offences committed during illegal motorcycle races, an official newspaper said Tuesday.

The city daily *Hanoi Moi* said the court sentenced Truong Tuan Anh, 22, to 22 months in prison and Nguyen Xuan Thi, 18, to 10 months for "creating disorder" and fighting during races on the night of May 1. They were the first people jailed in the two years since young people began motorcycle racing on weekend and holiday nights on the main streets and around the capital's central Hoan Kiem Lake.

South Africa's white military chief keeps job

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's new all-race government said Tuesday the country's white military chief would retain his job and have the task of forging a fully representative force from regular troops and former guerrillas.

Defence Minister Joe Modise, speaking before President Nelson Mandela unveiled his promised reconstruction plan in parliament, told a news conference General Georg Meiring would run the new South African National Defence Force.

Mr. Modise said Gen. Meiring, the former South African Defence Force chief, had been appointed for five years to oversee a military all South Africans could accept.

"The task on General Meiring's shoulders is to build a legitimate credible and fully representative defence force that will enjoy the full support and cooperation of all the people of South Africa," he said.

The new force combines the old regular forces and former black guerrillas.

Mr. Modise said the size of the defence force was expected to increase by some 30,000 men to more than 100,000 as soldiers from the Umkhonto We Sizwe — Spear of the Nation (MK), and other armed forces are integrated into the national army.

But a "rationalisation" process would follow, aiming to end up with a standing force of 70,000 men, Mr. Modise said.

The minister would not be drawn into commenting on the fate of other ranking generals in the country's armed forces, nor would he say when he expected the first black general to be named.

Officers from the British Armed Forces would act as independent observers to monitor the integration and rationalisation processes, he said, pledging to maintain the standards of the South African army, considered to be by and large the best in Africa.

Meanwhile, African National Congress (ANC) secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa was Tuesday elected to chair South Africa's Constitutional Assembly — the body that will give final shape to the new basic law.

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Expert sees growing importance of U.N. to U.S. diplomacy

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The role of the United Nations has grown in importance to U.S. diplomacy, says Cameron Hume, the author of the newly published book *The United Nations, Iran and Iraq*.

Mr. Hume discussed the book's conclusions during a briefing at the Foreign Press Centre in Washington. A U.S. diplomat on sabbatical at the U.S. Institute of Peace, Mr. Hume has served in Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia and will soon take up his new post as chief of the political section at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Hume previously served at the United Nations from 1986 to 1990 the time-period he explores in his book. "During that time there was a major change in the way the Security Council operated," in that diplomacy at the United Nations

evolved from clashing to cooperating, he said.

By the mid-1980's, the major powers had moved from clashing to finding a way to cooperate in the Security Council, notably when dealing with the Iran-Iraq war, he noted. By the 1990's, he said, that "cooperation took a quantum leap forward," due in part to the international community's commitment to reverse Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Despite this newfound cooperation, Mr. Hume said the international community is still confused as to how the United Nations should operate in the "new world order."

"We still don't understand adequately the consequences of the new world that we live in, in terms of conducting diplomacy at the U.N.," he said.

Japan Socialist leader predicts continuing turmoil

TOKYO (R) — The leader of Japan's Socialist Party, which has the votes either to topple or prop up the new minority cabinet, predicted Tuesday a short lifespan for the government and a long period of political turmoil.

A beleaguered Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata has been floundering since he formed the country's first minority administration in four decades in late April. Few expect him to survive for long.

Socialist Chairman Tomichi Murayama led his party out of the coalition the day Mr. Hata was named, stripping it of its majority. He said Tuesday that Mr. Hata now had little choice but to resign along with his cabinet or call early elections.

"It's an ill-fated and unnatural minority cabinet," Mr. Murayama told a Tokyo news conference.

"The prime minister will have to decide either to resign or dissolve parliament... sometime after the state budget (for 1994/95) is passed."

Mr. Hata told parliament this week he was determined to pass the long-delayed budget, which should have taken effect on April 1, before the close of the current session. Although it is due to end on June 29, the session could be extended for several weeks to allow adequate time to debate the budget bill — thus prolonging Mr. Hata's hold on power.

Mr. Murayama ruled out the possibility his party would rejoin the coalition in its current form even if Mr. Hata and his entire cabinet resigned.

"We're not going back to this coalition government," he said. "It has to be dismantled first and then we'll be ready to cooperate in forming a new government."

The Socialist Party was a founding member of the broad coalition that took over government last August after 38 years of unbroken rule by the scandal-plagued Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Agreeing to install Mr. Hata as prime minister to succeed Morihiro Hosokawa.

The crisis erupted the day the Socialists helped elect Mr. Hata. Coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa, Mr. Hata's chief ally, formed a new parliamentary bloc that grouped the coalition's conservatives and centrists but excluded the Socialists.

Angered by what they saw as a move to freeze them out of policy-making, the leftist party walked out.

Speculation is rife the Socialist Party was ready to form an alliance with the conservative LDP, its perpetual adversary during the cold war era.

Mr. Murayama said his party had no plans to bed down with the LDP in its current incarnation but said anything was possible after the next wave of political realignment.

"Everyone in the Socialist Party agrees that we're not going to form a coalition with the LDP if it adheres to its (present) party constitution," he said.

"But then all the existing parties are going to go through changes, after which they'll get together to discuss what kind of government to form."

Whatever the outcome, Mr. Murayama added, Japan was in for many years of unstable coalition rule.

"We are in a period of coalition rule, regardless of whether or not it's good," he said. "And it's going to last for some time."

Mr. Hata, enduring another day of ridicule in parliament Tuesday, said he was determined to hold on long enough to call elections under a new, supposedly cleaner, electoral system now being hammered out.

"The next elections must be held under the new system," he said, appealing for support from a militant opposition.

An official panel redrawing the electoral map is not expected to finish its task until late September. After that, a bill to enact its recommendations must be approved by parliament before the new system actually takes effect.

Clearly, the United States is not in a leadership role in regard," he said.

كندا في لاجل

Jazz find it hard to handle Olajuwon

HOUSTON (AP) — Inside. Outside. Double team. Triple team. One on one. It did not make any difference.

The Utah Jazz could not stop Hakeem Olajuwon, who had just another average night Monday as the Rockets topped the Utah Jazz 100-88 to take the opening game of their Western Conference final.

Olajuwon finished with 31 points on 12-of-20 shooting and four blocks, bolstering his case for the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award.

"We couldn't contain him," Jazz coach Jerry Sloan said. "He's one of the toughest guys in the league to contend with. We double him and somebody else is open."

Utah's Felton Spencer, given the primary task of trying to stop Olajuwon, said he thought he did a good job.

"We didn't expect to stop him, just slow him down," Spencer said. "Somebody told me before this game it wasn't going to get any easier, and they were right."

"I don't plan on stopping him. That would be silly for me to think of. He's just so talented, he's going to get his shots."

Olajuwon said Spencer did not make things easy. "Spencer is a very big guy," Olajuwon said. "He made me work for every point. Those (31) were difficult points. I didn't feel any pressure. My job is to do whatever is necessary."

"This is just the first game. The second will be tougher," Olajuwon blew the game open in the fourth quarter, hitting Houston's first nine points and removing any thoughts the Jazz may have had of a comeback.

First a layup on which he was fouled to make it a three-point play, then a 12-foot jumper, then another layup and a 16-foot jumper.

"I think I shot the ball very well," he said. "When Hakeem is going like that — he's inside and our outside game is working — we're hard to beat," said Houston's Mario Elie.

"It's a lot of fun," Spencer said. "I like the challenge of trying to stop the MVP. I've seen him play even better than he did tonight and tonight he played pretty good. They were hitting the open shots and



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Hakeem was being Hakeem." With Olajuwon occupying the Jazz inside, the Rockets lit the scoreboard from the outside, sinking 10 3-pointers.

"They they would hit shots on the perimeter like they did tonight and Olajuwon is on the inside, they're difficult to stop," Sloan said. "He gets a shot off so quick he's hard to deal with."

"He's so quick he's difficult to double team. By the time the second guy gets there, he's already got his shot off. Everything we did didn't work out."

about 140 cars, some of which had been reaching 300kmh (187mph) on unrestricted roads, were racing from Darwin to the landmark Ayers Rock in central Australia and back.

Northern Territory was chosen by race organisers because it has the only roads in Australia without speed limits.

Race director Allan Moffat will decide Friday whether the race should continue. Wednesday is a scheduled rest day.

The Automobile Association (AA) of the Northern Territory predicted it would be the last of its kind because of the danger.

"There will have to be a reassessment," AA local manager Malcolm Fash said. "I think you will find it will be the first and last race."

4 killed in Australia race crash

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — Four people died as a Ferrari sports car crashed into a parked official vehicle during the third day of the Cannonball Run on a main highway south of here Tuesday.

The Ferrari 1-40, which had clocked the fastest times on the first two days, ran off the road on a sweeping bend, skidded on gravel and rammed the other vehicle at a checkpoint 95km (60 miles) south of Alice Springs.

The Ferrari driver, unofficially identified as Akhito Kabe, a Japanese dentist, died instantly along with his co-driver and two race officials in the checkpoint vehicle.

Police said names were being withheld until relatives were informed.

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Bruguera, Courier win in French Open; Sabatini, Navratilova upset

PARIS (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini joined Martina Navratilova as a stunned first-round upset victim Tuesday at the French Open. Sergi Bruguera and Jim Courier, the men's finalists last year, advanced in straight sets.

Sabatini, a former U.S. Open champion, won the first set against 16th-ranked Silvia Farina of Italy, then stumbled to a 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 defeat. It was the first time since the 1993 U.S. Open that the Argentine, seeded eighth here, lost in the first round of a Grand Slam.

"It's very disappointing," Sabatini said. "It's hard to believe I lost in the first round here. I like the tournament, I always played well here."

Courier, the 1991 and 1992 champion but now only the no. 7 seed, downed France's Jean-Philippe Fleurbaey, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

"I always feel good when I come here. This time of year, this is my home," Courier said. "I'll play the best I can, and hopefully it will take me a long way."

Bruguera, a surprise victor over Courier in last year's final, is seeded only sixth and has been struggling with shoulder problems. But the Spaniard's muscular baseline game looked devastating in the early stages of his 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) win over 68th-ranked Martin Damm of the Czech Republic.

Bruguera let a 5-2 lead in the third set slip away before recovering to double team.

"I thought the match was over. I realize I stopped moving my legs," he said. "It was difficult for me to get back into the match."

He said he feels more pressure this year as defending champion. "Last year I was maybe more relaxed. Nobody was watching me. Now, people are watching and it's more difficult to play like this."

Sabatini, without a tournament title in more than two years, lost on the same no. 1 court where she blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead to Mary Joe Fernandez in last year's quarterfinals. This time, Sabatini has two break points to go up 4-1 in the third set, but crumpled.

Navratilova was expected to meet top-seeded Steffi Graf in the semifinals June 2. Instead, Miriam Oremans, a 21-year-old Dutch upstart with a 1-3 record this year, knocked Navratilova out of the tournament on its opening day.

The 6-4, 6-4 loss was rude

"This loss will hurt me, but I don't think it's going to be as bad," said Sabatini, who had reached at least the fourth round in nine previous French Opens.

She praised Farina, who won for the first time in three tries here.

"Probably my attitude wasn't that great," Sabatini said. "But I have to give her a lot of credit. She played really, really well."

Sabatini was the second upset victim of the day. South African Amanda Coetzer rolled to a 6-2, 6-1 victory over no. 6 seed Kimiko Date of Japan.

Date reached the semifinals of the Australian Open and had a 20-5 record this year — fourth best on the tour.

Coetzer is ranked 18th, only two spots away from earning a seeding of her own.

Navratilova, the no. 4 seed, lost Monday, meaning three of the eight top-seeded women failed to make the second round.

The no. 14th seed, Zina Garrison-Jackson, lost her first-round match for the fourth time in a row here, falling to Silke Frankl of Germany, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, in a match that had been suspended Monday by darkness.

Another loser was unseeded Tracy Austin, the former U.S. Open champion trying a comeback at 31. Martina Kochta of Germany routed her, 6-0, 6-1.

The women's no. 2 seed, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, avoided the upset epidemic with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Argentina's Florencia Labat.

No. 15 Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic beat Laurence Courtois of Belgium, 6-3, 7-5. Among the men, 13th-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden beat Jordi Burillo of Spain, 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Navratilova was expected to meet top-seeded Steffi Graf in the semifinals June 2. Instead, Miriam Oremans, a 21-year-old Dutch upstart with a 1-3 record this year, knocked Navratilova out of the tournament on its opening day.

The 6-4, 6-4 loss was rude



Martina Navratilova holds a racket that she smashed when leaving the court after bowing out of the French Open tournament Monday (AP photo)

welcome back for Navratilova, 37, who had skipped this clay-court tournament for the past five years to prepare for her favoured grass at Wimbledon. This year, her last on the tour, nostalgia drew her back, but could not save the no. 4 seed from a defeat that prompted her to smash her racket on a sideline chair.

Graf and the men's top seed, Pete Sampras, won in straight sets Monday and look to have easy tasks again the second round Wednesday.

Graf, seeking her fifth straight Grand Slam title, will play 67th-ranked Stephanie

Rottier of the Netherlands, who before Monday had lost all 10 of her Grand Slam matches. Sampras, hoping to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win four straight Grand Slams, faces Marcelo Rios of Chile, a Grand Slam newcomer ranked 283rd.

Most of Sampras' top rivals played their first-round matches Tuesday. In addition to Bruguera and Courier, second-seeded Michael Stich faced Italy's Rocco Pietrangeli and no. 3 Stefan Edberg played fellow Swede Henrik Holm.

Managerial upheaval could cost Saudis in their first World Cup appearance

PARIS (AP) — Football is a relatively recent import to Saudi Arabia, but with royal backing and a World Cup berth the game's popularity is exploding like an oil well fire.

King Fahd and his sports-minded sons poured millions of dollars into reaching the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Extravagant gifts were given to everyone involved in the success in the six-nation regional qualifying tournament in Doha last October.

Such patronage has allowed the creation of a professional league in a country that was a soccer desert 35 years ago.

Saudi wealth attracted coaches of the calibre of Maria Zagalo, who won the World Cup with Brazil as a player and manager, and Carlos Alberto Pereira. But it has also given the royal family-dominated federation a powerful say in team affairs.

Such input makes the national manager's position precarious.



Saudi Arabia's national team

Brazilian Jose Candido, who took the Saudis to the Doha tournament, quit over outside interference.

Candido was seen arguing with Saudi officials in the middle of the game against Iraq.

apparently over a call from Riyadh demanding the substitution of goalkeeper Mohammed Al Deayea.

After the keeper came off, the Brazilian was heard to say the Saudi campaign would go on "without me."

Former Dutch international Leo Beenhakker was drafted as replacement, but his European approach clashed with the South American style admired by Saudi football officials.

on "without me."

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You must have a dream to win, says Milutinovic

MISSION VIEJO, California (R) — Bora Milutinovic, who will be the first coach to lead three countries in three consecutive World Cup finals, is pursuing the American dream.

The odds are against a tournament triumph by the United States but team coach Milutinovic believes "you must have a dream; to win the dream may not be realistic, but you need it for the dream to come true."

Milutinovic, 49, who was born in the former Yugoslavia, knows expectations are high that he will guide the hosts at least into the second round.

"We have to be realistic about this American dream of winning it all," he said in an interview after practice at the U.S. training camp in Mission Viejo, 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Los Angeles.

"Other countries have football experience but for us it is not so easy. In fact it is very difficult," said Milutinovic, known universally as "coach Bora."

A former midfield player with Partizan Belgrade and Monaco in the 1960s before playing and coaching in Mexico, Milutinovic led tiny Costa Rica to the second round of the finals in Italy four years ago.

In 1986, he guided Mexico to the quarter-finals.

The record speaks for itself — which is as well for a coach who, as some have met him are inclined to joke,

manages to be unintelligible in a range of languages.

At news conferences in the United States he frequently prefers to speak in Spanish with a translator.

Milutinovic is having to train in Mission Viejo knowing the nucleus of the World Cup team is in Europe, but he does not consider that to be a liability.

"This is a simple game," he says. "Romario plays a completely different style for Barcelona than he does for Brazil but he adapts."

"The system means nothing — if you know your players, you play, if not then you look for excuses."

And Milutinovic does know his players, earning intense loyalty from them for his style, which includes taking part in practice games with them.

He does not shout orders from the sidelines like other coaches but gets out and shows the players what he wants.

Defender Jeff Agoos said: "I have great respect for Bora because he's been around. Bora's style emphasises ball possession and defence."

Milutinovic talks lovingly about the game and tactics but is keen to stress that it is not his entire life.

"I think I am a normal person, I have experience but I never think soccer all the time. I like to walk on the beach with my daughter or play tennis — I am very sentimental."

FIFA says no to IOC anti-doping declaration

ZURICH (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) was put itself on a collision course with the Olympic movement when it decided not to sign up to an International Olympic Committee (IOC) anti-doping declaration.

The declaration was issued by the IOC in January in a bid to standardise rules and sanctions on doping between all the major sports.

Since then almost all of the 33 Olympic sports federations have signed the document, committing themselves to the IOC rules and putting their own doping controls under effective IOC supervision.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said a new conference, however, that FIFA's ruling executive committee had decided Friday not to sign up to the declaration.

He said although FIFA was willing to accept IOC supervision during the Olympic games, it felt it could handle the drugs problem itself at other times in its own laboratories.

Apart from committing signatories to applying common punishment for drug offences, the declaration stipulates that federations accept an IOC list of banned substances and use IOC-recognised laboratories for doping controls.

It is the last of the eight

points in the declaration which could lead to a battle between FIFA and the IOC.

Its concluding article decrees that all Olympic sports must be governed by federations which comply with the declaration — theoretically raising the possibility of soccer's exclusion from the games.

"The executive committee supports the struggle undertaken by the IOC and the Olympic family against drug abuse," Blatter said.

"It entirely goes along with that idea, but it cannot go along with the drug abuse declaration signed by other bodies," he added.

"We shall abide by the IOC regulations during the Olympic Games, but outside the Olympic Games it's our baby."

Among the 26 members of the executive committee is FIFA President Joao Havelange — himself a powerful member of the IOC.

Asked about the FIFA decision, an IOC spokesman declined comment, saying the organisation had not yet been informed of it by FIFA.

The council, replacing the current tribunal for sports arbitration, is an attempt to avoid sports disputes ending up in the civil courts where they can have unexpected — and costly — results for the major sports federations.

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SAVE THE BASTILLE!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 10 7 2
♥ 10 9 3
♦ 2
♣ 8 2

EAST
♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ A Q 8 6 2
♦ Void
♣ 10 7 6

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ A Q J 10 8 7 4 2
♦ A Q 5
♣ A 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

When the honours are ready to storm the citadel, no reaction is to be seen. A more sensible alternative is to find a way to blunt the assault. We could build a strong case for a jump to two spades by North on the first round. As a result of the delayed jump, the auction was crowded and the final bid was a bit of a misaction that worked out well in practice.

Since the auction suggested that North-South did not possess a first-round heart control, the lead of the king of hearts by West to take a look at dummy has a lot to recommend it. A spade shift by West at trick two would then have led to the contract's demise.

The opening spade lead proved just as deadly as the table. Afraid of a ruff, declarer hastened to draw trumps by leading low to the ace. Had trumps divided 7-1, all would have been well. After drawing another round of trumps, ending in dummy, declarer would have been able to run the spades for all the discards needed. As it was, West was able to ruff the second spade as declarer discarded a heart, but South still had to lose two club tricks for down two.

Let's suppose declarer allowed West to ruff a spade at trick two, discarding a heart from hand. Now declarer would have been able to win any return, draw trump ending on the table, then use the spade suit to eliminate two club discards. Making six odd!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lillehammer organisers win U.N. awards

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — The Lillehammer Olympic organising committee behind this year's Winter Games and Norway's environmental federation are to be awarded six U.N. environmental prizes, a committee spokesman said Tuesday. The awards for staging the environmentally friendly tournament will be made in London June 3, International Environment Day, during ceremonies for "The Global 500 Roll of Honour" of eco-friendly enterprises. Games organisers cooperated closely with environmental officials to ensure the games were as "green" as possible.

Zimbabwe's trainers cleared of doping

HARARE (AP) — The Jockey Club of Southern Africa has cleared Zimbabwe's trainers of doping their horses. After two months of investigations, the Johannesburg-based watchdog said in a statement published Tuesday: "The board has found there is no substantial evidence to support the charges of widespread abuse of prohibited substances in Zimbabwe."

Piggott lands Derby ride

LONDON (R) — Lester Piggott will ride John Dunlop's Khamaseen in the English Derby June 1, the Arundel Stable announced Tuesday. The 58-year-old veteran, victorious only once in England this season, has won the Epsom Classic a record nine times. Khamaseen, a son of 1985 Derby winner Slip Anchor, runs as Dunlop's second string behind his strongly fancied Erhaahr, but is no forlorn hope.

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TODAY	FOR LOVE OR MONEY Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Tom & Jerry At 11:00 & 12:30	Waleed Tawfiq in 1. Goodbye, Single Life Arabic The star of the movie will attend the shows Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 2. ALADDIN Shows: 11 a.m., 12:30, 2, 5:15 p.m.	CONCORD "1" THE GETAWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" A League Of Their Own Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6, 8:15, 10:15	The political comedy play FORBIDDEN FORBIDDEN Every night at 8:30 p.m.	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy: "PUNCTURED BAG"	The political comedy play: "WHAT A PEACE!" (Al Salam Ya Salam) At 8:30 p.m. For reservations please call 625155

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy seeks more say in world affairs

ROME (R) — Italy's new Foreign Minister Antonio Martino Tuesday said his country wanted a greater say in international affairs and could not accept being excluded from the group of powers seeking a peace settlement for Bosnia. In a newspaper interview from Washington, where he was to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. Martino mapped out a vigorous approach to foreign policy by the new conservative cabinet of tycoon Silvio Berlusconi. His coalition of free-market, neo-fascists and federalists, sworn in this month, has broken 50 years of centrist government in Italy which had traditionally been content with a low key approach to foreign affairs. "What we want is a larger and more incisive Italian presence in the various international organisations," Mr. Martino said. He told La Repubblica newspaper that Italy's exclusion from a five-member "contact group" coordinating peace efforts in former Yugoslavia was not acceptable. "I will state clearly that our country should be part of it." The group is made up of five senior officials from the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain. "Our position is clear. Italy must be involved from the start in the decision making process. We cannot accept being left out," Mr. Martino said.

Haiti military charged with abuses

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An Organisation of American States (OAS) commission accused Haiti's military of murder and other serious human rights abuses. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which travelled to the Caribbean country last week, said the human rights situation had deteriorated considerably and that it had reliable reports of 133 extrajudicial executions since February. The delegation said in a statement that most of the incidents occurred in areas believed to be strongholds of support for ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The report said the military, which toppled Mr. Aristide in 1991, would infiltrate villages on the pretext of flushing out subversives and then attack or arrest residents, set fire and rob and destroy homes. The military was carrying on a systematic campaign of intimidation and terror against the Haitian people, according to the commission, which ended its five-day trip to Haiti Friday.

Cambodian troops take Treng

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Government troops have driven the Khmer Rouge out of Treng, the government's original frontline position in northwest Cambodia before an offensive against the rebel capital Pailin two months ago, officials said Tuesday. Royal Armed Forces took Treng Monday, but the number of casualties was still unknown. Defence Minister Tea Banh told AFP by telephone. He added that the town had been completely demolished by the Khmer Rouge. Finance Minister Sam Rainsy told reporters at Phnom Penh airport that the town had fallen, and that "the situation is now exactly the same as the day we started our military operation to attack the Khmer Rouge." He was referring to an ill-fated offensive in which government troops captured Pailin, before losing it one month later, and being driven back to within 15 kilometres of Cambodia's second city of Battambang. But he added that although this was "exactly the same situation as a few months ago... in the meantime we have lost hundreds of lives, millions of dollars... for nothing." Sam Rainsy was seen off by Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, on their way to peace talks with the Khmer Rouge Friday in North Korea. Government and military officials in the capital said they had retaken Treng more than three weeks ago, a claim that was refuted by officers in Battambang.

Strong quakes hit Greek islands

ATHENS (AFP) — Four strong earthquakes under the Aegean Sea shook Greek islands for the second day running Tuesday, sending panic-stricken residents into the streets, the Athens Observatory said. The latest tremors, measuring 6.1, 5.7 and 5.0 and 4.9 degrees on the Richter Scale, occurred at 0205, 0215, 0336 and 0605 GMT. All had their epicentre in the same spot under the Aegean Sea some 240 kilometres (150 miles) northeast of Athens. They were felt especially on the islands of Chios and Lesbos, as well as in Athens. The tremors caused no casualties and only minor damage, notably cracks in older houses, authorities said. The shock waves also shook the Izmir region on the Turkey's western coast and were felt as far away as Istanbul, the Kandilli Seismological Institute in Istanbul said. An earthquake measuring 6.1 degrees shook the island of Crete, further south, Monday, causing slight damage.

3 strong quakes rock Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — Three powerful earthquakes, the strongest of which measured 6.2 on the Richter Scale, shook Taiwan Tuesday but no damage or casualties were reported, the Central Weather Bureau and police said. The strongest quake, centred in the sea 100 kilometres east of the county of Hualien, was recorded at 0400 GMT. It lasted about 20 seconds and shook buildings in Taipei and other cities, a bureau spokesman said. The same quake was also felt in Japan, the meteorological agency said. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties in Japan. A spokesman for Taiwan's National Police Administration said there had been no reports of damage or casualties. The second quake, measuring 5.3, was centred 100 kilometres east of Hualien, the third, measuring 5.5, was centred 106 kilometres east of Hualien. Two hundred tremors have been recorded since Monday, the bureau spokesman said. Taiwan's eastern coast lies along a fault line.

Damage in millions as storm hits Perth

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — Perth mopped up Tuesday after its wildest storm for 20 years left a trail of damage estimated at many millions of dollars. Authorities in the Western Australian capital said it was miraculous there were no serious injuries as house roofs were blown away, power lines snapped and half of the city's million-plus population was plunged into darkness for hours by electricity cuts triggered by winds gusting to 140 kilometres per hour. Emergency crews worked throughout Monday night and all day Tuesday removing fallen trees and live power lines from roads. The State Emergency Commission said 50,000 homes were still without power midday Tuesday.

34 drown as boat capsizes in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Thirty-four people, mainly women and children, drowned when a boat packed with wedding guests capsized in southern India. Press Trust of India news agency said Tuesday. Ten people swam ashore as the boat sank Monday in Tungabhadra River in Karnataka state, the agency said quoting police. It said the victims were cruising along the river after the wedding when the accident occurred. The victims included 15 women, 16 children and three men. The agency said all the bodies were recovered.

Major fight for sovereignty in Euro-poll

LONDON (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major Monday put preservation of Britain's national veto at the heart of the ruling Conservative Party's aggressive campaign for the June 9 European elections. He accused opposition Labour and Liberal Democratic parties of promoting a weak Britain in a "European superstate" — as he addressed the first rally of the campaign in Bristol, southern England. And he warned that opposition policies like a four-day week would sink Europe by making it incapable of competing with Asia. Pledging to maintain the British veto in the Council of Ministers in Brussels on issues such as taxation, foreign policy and immigration, Mr. Major described it as "our insurance policy, our safeguard for our vital interests." And he added: "In doing so we are not just being anti-European, not being the awkward squad. We are just doing our job."

Shiite leader calls on Beirut government to quit

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of pro-Iranian militants Tuesday called for the resignation of the Lebanese government for failing to block an Israeli commando raid that netted a Shiite Muslim guerrilla leader.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizbollah, also vowed to punish Israel for Saturday's abduction of Mustafa Dirani, leader of the Believers Resistance.

The resignation call spotlighted tension between Shiite militants and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government, which officially embraces the guerrillas' fight to remove Israeli forces from South Lebanon, but is often irked by the challenge they pose to its authority.

Disarming Hizbollah has been a key Israeli demand in negotiations with Lebanon under the framework of the Middle East peace process. Mr. Nasrallah accused the government of "incompetence" in dealing with Mr. Dirani's abduction.

"The least that could be done if there is a sense of responsibility and dignity is for the government and its head to resign immediately," Mr. Nasrallah told a packed news conference.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Hariri or any of his cabinet members.

Emerging from a meeting

with President Elias Hrawi Tuesday, Mr. Hariri denounced the Israeli raid as "an act of piracy in violation of all international norms."

He said Lebanon was considering lodging a complaint with the U.N. Security Council.

"I don't deny that their (Israeli) arm is long and they have experience," Mr. Nasrallah said. But "retaliation is coming from where they expect it and from where they don't."

Hizbollah, Iran's standard-bearer in Lebanon, spearheads a guerrilla campaign to dislodge Israeli forces from a self-proclaimed "security zone" they created in South Lebanon in 1985.

Mr. Dirani, 34, was seized from his home in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in a 6-hour operation carried out by 40 Israeli commandos.

They came aboard two helicopters that flew in from the sea over the central mountains behind Lebanese and Syria army lines and down into the valley to capture Dirani at the village of Qasaba.

Israel said it wanted Mr. Dirani for interrogation on the fate of Israeli airman Ron Arad, who has been missing since his plane was shot down over South Lebanon in October 1986.

Israeli officials have said Mr.

Dirani held Arad for two years then sold him to Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the Bekaa city of Baalbek.

Mr. Nasrallah said neither Mr. Dirani nor Hizbollah had any information about Arad.

Hizbollah has been allowed to keep its weapons to fight Israel after most other militia groups that fought the 1975-90 civil war disarmed or disbanded.

But Mr. Nasrallah complained that the government was restricting the guerrillas, without specifying how.

However, he clearly sought to avert any friction with the army, saying: "We are eager to avoid disturbances."

He said Hizbollah was not seeking a showdown, but coordination to "fortify the (domestic) arena to serve the resistance and its symbols and consolidate" national reconciliation.

Relations between Hizbollah and the government have deteriorated since Sept. 13, 1993, when the group staged an unauthorised demonstration that turned bloody.

At least nine Hizbollah members were killed and 35 wounded when troops intervened to end the march in protest over the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord signed that day.

Hizbollah opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mandela pledges S.Africa for the people

CAPE TOWN (R) — Nelson Mandela, in the first state-of-the-nation address by a black president, promised Tuesday

"a people-centred society of freedom" in South Africa and a spending programme to eliminate the racial backlog of apartheid.

In a speech prepared for delivery to legislators in the formerly whites-only parliament where apartheid was created and dismantled, Mr. Mandela said his government of national unity would extend the frontiers of human fulfillment and freedom.

"We must construct that people-centred society of freedom in such a manner that it guarantees the political liberties and the human rights of all our citizens," he said.

Mr. Mandela, who spent 27 years in jail for fighting apartheid, was driven to parliament in a motorcade while soldiers paraded, a 21-gun salute boomed from nearby signal hill and a squadron of jets flew by with smoke trailing.

His address promising six essential freedoms was the first in the 110-year-old parliament by a member of South Africa's black majority.

It radically altered the course of a country whose economy was previously geared to the white minority five million, outnumbered five-to-one by blacks.

"My government's commitment (is) freedom from want, freedom from hunger, freedom from deprivation, freedom from ignorance, freedom from

suppression and freedom from fear," he said.

Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) scored a runaway victory in the country's first all-race elections last month, polling three times as many votes as former President F.W. de Klerk's second-placed National Party.

But he is obliged in terms of an interim constitution to rule for the first five years in coalition with Mr. De Klerk and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Earlier Tuesday, the 400-member National Assembly and the 90-member Senate met to establish a constitutional assembly that will draft a permanent constitution under the chairmanship of ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa.

Mr. Mandela announced an initial 2.5 billion rand (\$690 million) towards his party's reconstruction and development programme, including better health care, housing and education for the victims of apartheid.

"Government will also use its own allocation of funds to... exert maximum leverage in marshalling funds from within South Africa and abroad," he added.

Mr. Mandela promised within the first 100 days of his rule to implement free medical care for children under six and for pregnant women and a feeding scheme in primary schools "where such a need is established."

Kravchuk accuses Yeltsin over Crimea

KIEV (Agencies) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk accused Russian leader Boris Yeltsin Tuesday of inflaming tension in Kiev's dispute with Crimea, saying he had violated diplomatic practice and issued baseless warnings.

"A president can only issue warnings to his own government bodies and ministers and not to the president of other countries," Mr. Kravchuk told a gathering of war veterans, without referring to Mr. Yeltsin by name.

Mr. Kravchuk was clearly referring to comments made by Mr. Yeltsin last week on Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Television saying he had warned the Ukrainian president not to use force in the dispute. Mr. Yeltsin said Mr. Kravchuk had agreed.

Mr. Kravchuk also accused the Russian media of spreading "rabid and dishonest" information on Crimea, where the local parliament has restored a 1992 constitution denounced by Kiev authorities as an initial step to secession.

Mr. Yeltsin's advisers, he said, were also making statements inflaming the situation.

"This is a serious question because we do not accept at state level attacks on neighbours with which we want long-term friendly and equal relations, not just for a single day," he added.

More than a million displaced people are in desperate need of relief aid which the U.N. hopes to provide.

Thousands more refugees were fleeing renewed fighting



EID IN JERICHO: Palestinian boys enjoy the last day of Eid Al Adha (feast of the sacrifice) holiday in Jericho oasis. Thousands of Palestinians came to the newly autonomous West Bank town to celebrate the Eid and to welcome the new Palestinian policemen (AFP photo)

U.N. envoy lands in Kigali amid rebel mortar blitz

KIGALI (R) — U.N. envoy Iqbal Riza flew into Rwanda's capital Kigali Tuesday, with rebels bombarding the hotel where he was due to hold talks on ending bloodshed.

Mr. Riza, travelling with military adviser General Joseph Maurice Baril, landed at Kigali's bomb-shattered airport shortly after 11:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) and was immediately whisked away in a heavily protected military convoy to the U.N. garrison.

The envoy, whose mission is to try to end massacres and civil war that have killed an estimated 500,000 people in Rwanda in seven weeks, was driven to the garrison at speed in an armoured personnel carrier.

The Canadian Air Force C-130 transporter that brought him from Uganda's Entebbe Airport, left immediately.

On Monday Mr. Riza held talks with Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels in Northern Rwanda but then called off plans to travel south to Kigali when warring parties could not guarantee the safety of his road convoy.

Relentless artillery fire around the Hotel Des Diplomates could still be heard from within the compound housing the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

U.N. officials met to decide where Mr. Riza would hold talks with the top brass of the beleaguered Rwanda army.

Mr. Riza told Reuters he also planned to meet government leaders based in the town of Gikarama 50 kilometres south of Kigali.

"If need be I will go back for more talks with the RPF," he said. "All we are trying to do is to help Rwanda. We are taking no sides in this conflict."

If Mr. Riza's talks succeed, the United Nations will go ahead with plans approved by the Security Council to reinforce the U.N. army in Rwanda.

More than a million displaced people are in desperate need of relief aid which the U.N. hopes to provide.

Thousands more refugees were fleeing renewed fighting

in the capital as Mr. Riza arrived. At least 5,000 frightened people who camped overnight on the city's southern outskirts resumed their flight at first light Tuesday, witnesses said.

U.N. sources said the relentless rebel shelling, despite a temporary truce to allow Mr. Riza to visit, appeared to be part of RPF strategy to stop the envoy meeting the government.

The RPF refuses to deal with the government, which appointed itself after President Juvénal Habyarimana and his Burundi counterpart were killed in a rocket attack on a plane bringing them to Kigali on April 6.

That attack triggered massacres blamed largely on Mr. Habyarimana's loyalist army and gangs of his Hutu tribesmen targeting mainly the minority Tutsi, but also Hutus suspected of backing power-sharing with Tutsis.

U.N. sources said it appeared RPF guerrillas were keeping up their offensive with the objective of taking the capital. The city centre is held by the government army or tribal militias.

The rebels seized the airport and the nearby Kanombe government army camp Saturday and Sunday.

It was their most important battlefield victory since Rwanda's three-year civil war, which paused briefly, flared on April 6.

Meanwhile, Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray said Tuesday Australia will not send troops to Rwanda as requested by the United Nations until their safety can be assured.

"If I cannot be assured of their protective security, we don't send them in," Mr. Ray told a parliamentary committee, adding he had yet to see the kind of clear U.N. plan for using Australian troops that he wants.

"We are intensely disturbed and moved by what is happening in Rwanda," Mr. Ray said. "But the response has to be one that will work. If you take the wrong course, you will just make matters worse."

COLUMN

Researcher sees TV link with depression

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Depressed by what's on television? You may have company. A Penn State University researcher said there has been a "dramatically high" connection between the rise of television and a rise of depression among American young people since World War II. "The social effects of television, broadcasting seven hours per day, must be included as a possible reason for the earlier onset and growth of major depression among the young," said Dr. Paul Kettl, associate professor of psychiatry at Penn State's Milton Hershey Centre. "Thousands of hours of TV viewing expose our children to repetitive acts of senseless violence and may further disengage children from social contacts with peers and family, leading to an increased risk of major depression," he said in a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. In the study, Prof. Kettl compared the incidence of depression among 24-year-olds from 1954 to 1984 with the presence of television among the population. He found that as the presence of television grew, so did depression. "Television showed dramatically high correlations with lifetime prevalence of major depression at age 24," Prof. Kettl said. But he also said other factors contributing to depression among the young could include a rise in two-parent working families, rising divorce rates and increasing drug and alcohol use among the young.

Hanoi gets 1st taste of rock

HANOI (AFP) — Hanoi has had its first taste to live western rock but it could be the last for a while after sultry French siren Patricia Kaas whipped up the sort of youthful exuberance that horrifies Vietnam's strait-laced authorities. Kaas, known as France's answer to Madonna, stormed through her raved-about repertoire of rock and blues at the Monday night concert, causing a near riot among the Vietnamese crowd. Authorities had already demanded that the concert organisers remove the word "rock" from posters and adverts in a move indicative of their continuing fear of some Western influences. But they were prepared for the crowd's reaction to Kaas as hundreds stormed over a barrier into a guest seating area, scattering Hanoi's French expatriate community in their rush to get a closer look at the singer in her tight dress. With temperatures, both emotional and atmospheric, rising alarmingly in the concert hall — more normally used for trade fairs — extra police were drafted in to keep control of the 6,000 crowd. The concert came to an abrupt halt with a power cut during the second encore — frequently the way Vietnamese wind down concerts when things look like getting out of hand. The singer was in the middle of a number called "Come into the Light" when the stage was plunged into darkness. So far this year, the Vietnamese capital has hosted the tamer music of U.S. country star John Denver but with tickets costing \$30 each, few young people attended. Tickets for Kaas' concert, part of her "Tour de Charme" that will take her to Ho Chi Minh City and then Cambodia, cost only 20,000 dong (\$2), bringing them within reach of young people hungry for more contact with the West. But officials are growing increasingly concerned with the behaviour of Vietnam's young people who make up more than half the population and are hungering for even greater freedoms as the country opens its doors.

Broken toilet bowls yield money

...in Manila

MANILA (R) — Some of the floods that make Manila life a misery every time it rains are caused deliberately by thugs who make money pushing stalled cars. Philippine government officials said Tuesday. Broken toilet bowls, plastic bottles and other rubbish is used to block drainage outlets, they said. "It's probably the work of street-corner toughs who make money from motorists by pushing their cars or from pedestrians by building them catwalks," a public works spokesman said. The Philippines is hit by more than 20 typhoons a year.